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The Sporting News

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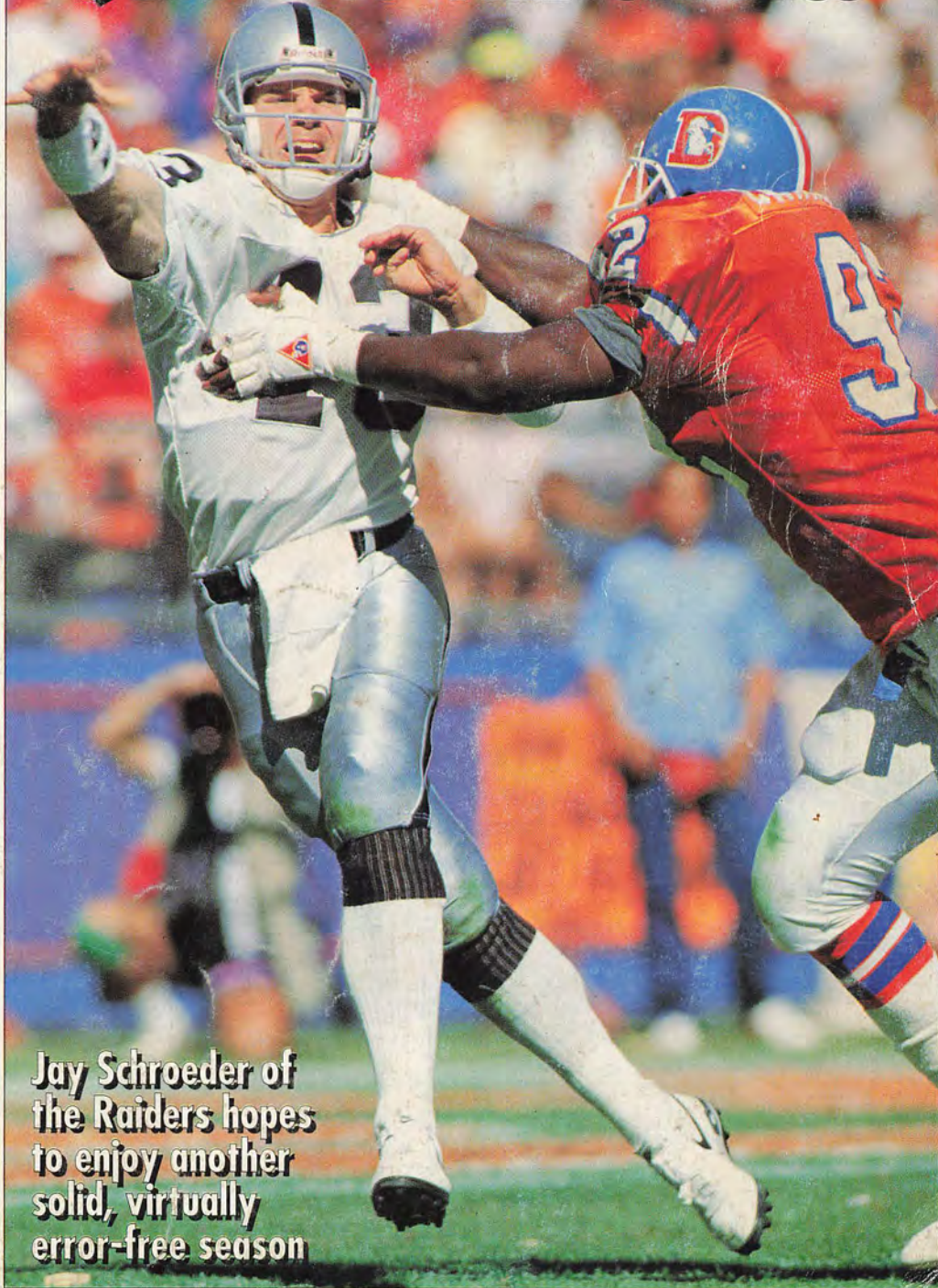
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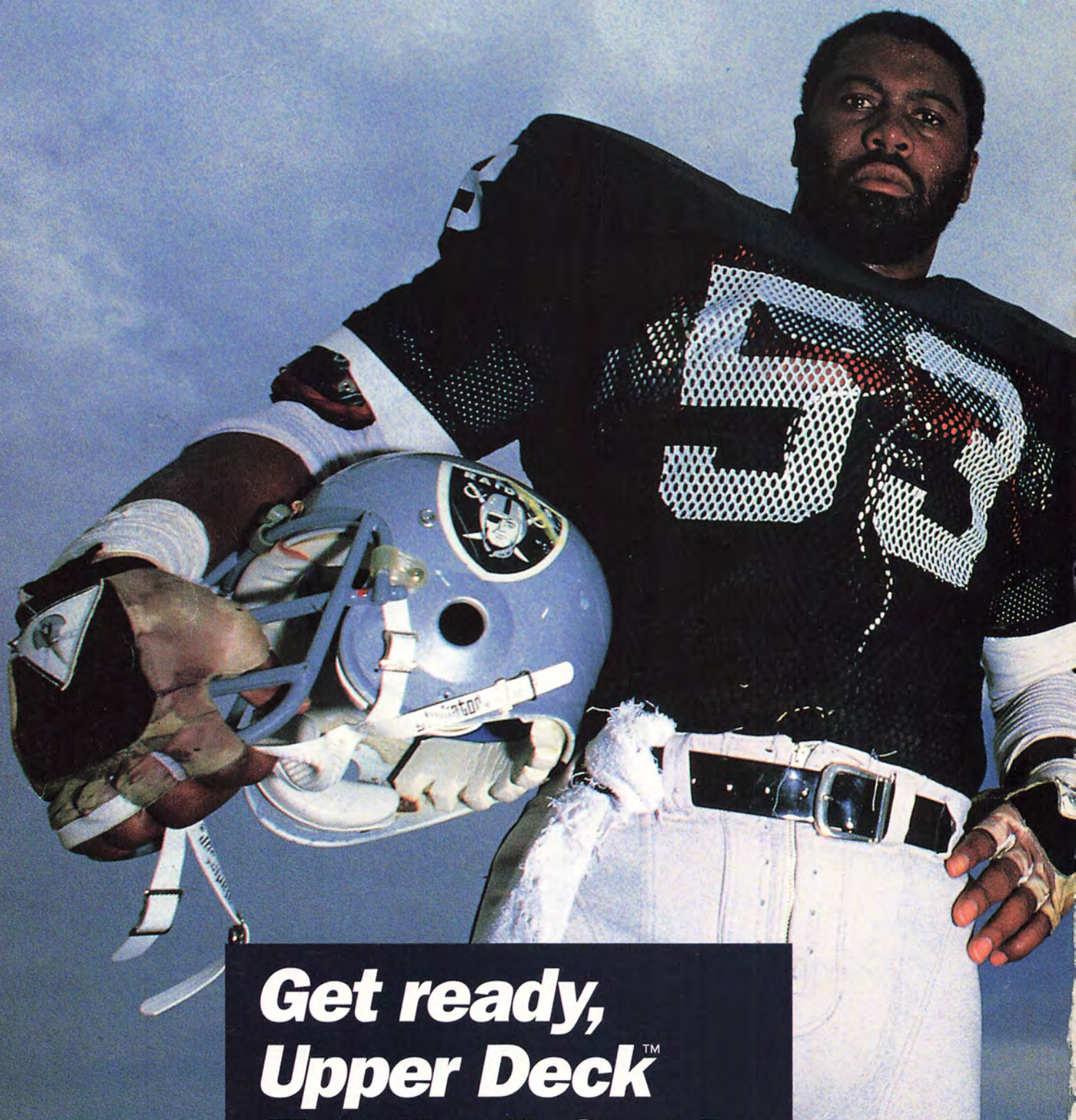


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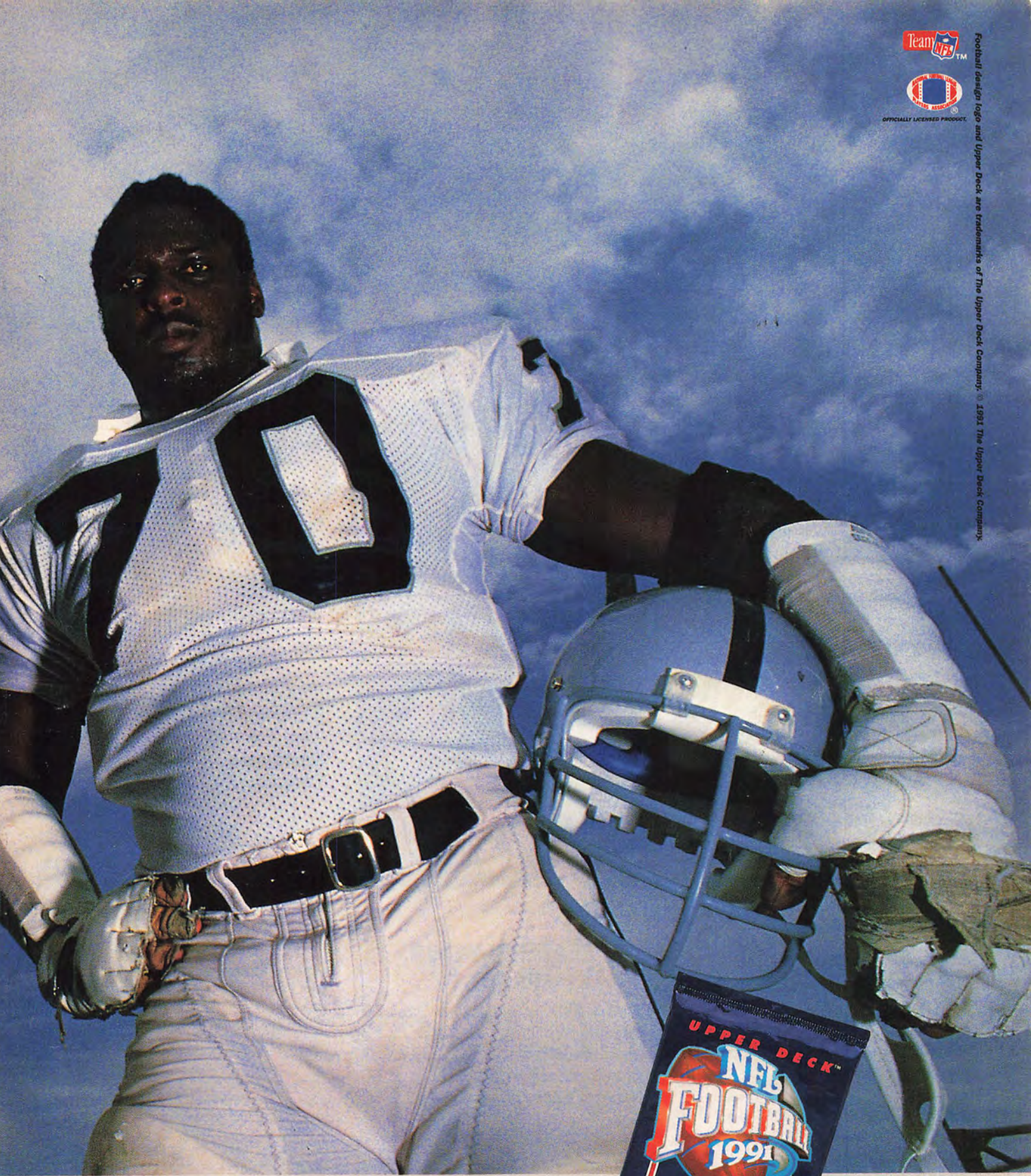


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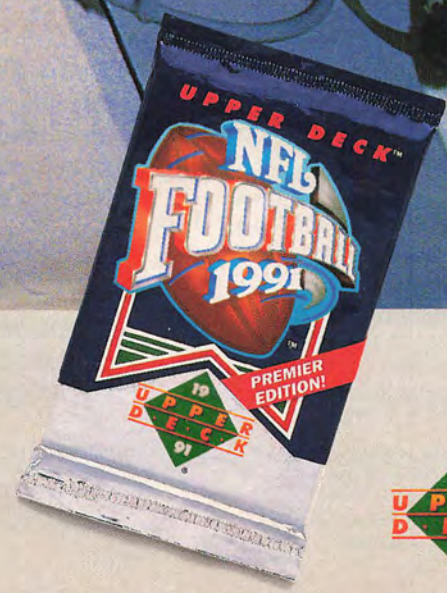


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The Sporting News

1991 PRO FOOTBALL YEARBOOK

CONTENTS

Color Blind (Almost, Anyway) ... 4

Randall Cunningham and Warren Moon are quashing the myth that blacks can't play quarterback in the NFL

Breakthrough 14

As a speaker, linebacker Derrick Thomas reaches Kansas City-area youngsters; as a linebacker for the Chiefs, he reaches NFL quarterbacks

Show-stoppers 20

Buffalo's Bruce Smith and Thurman Thomas move center stage in the NFL—and earn rave reviews for their sterling performances

Plan B 26

A bargain-basement sale or just a blue-light special, it's NFL-style free agency

Rison on the Horizon 30

Atlanta receiver Andre Rison, known as 'Showtime' in the NFL, talks—and also plays—a good game

A Look at the Trade 33

A verdict still isn't in on the Andre Rison/Chris Hinton/Jeff George deal

Charging to Stardom 34

Tacklers are cruisin' for a bruising when they run headlong into San Diego's Marion Butts

Sudden Impact 40

Miami opponents are hereby forewarned: Beware of offensive tackle Richmond Webb (he's not all that lovable)

Super Bowl Mystery 44

The AFC is at a loss (seven of 'em, in fact) to explain its title-game blues

Clipboard Caddies 46

Backup quarterbacks, once relegated to 'observing,' are now cast in vital roles

Scouting the AFC 49

Scouting the NFC 100

1992 NFL Draft Preview 148

A look at the top collegiate prospects for next year's draft

General Information 150

1991 preseason and regular-season schedules, the 1991 draft (round by round), 1990 AFC and NFC statistical leaders and more



Sammie Smith, Miami

FOTOSPORTS INTERNATIONAL

AFC WEST

Denver Broncos	82
Kansas City Chiefs	85
Los Angeles Raiders	88
San Diego Chargers	92
Seattle Seahawks	96

NFC EAST

Dallas Cowboys	101
New York Giants	104
Philadelphia Eagles	108
Phoenix Cardinals	111
Washington Redskins	114

NFC CENTRAL

Chicago Bears	117
Detroit Lions	121
Green Bay Packers	124
Minnesota Vikings	128
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	131

NFC WEST

Atlanta Falcons	134
Los Angeles Rams	137
New Orleans Saints	141
San Francisco 49ers	144

TEAM PREVIEWS

AFC EAST

Buffalo Bills	50
Indianapolis Colts	53
Miami Dolphins	56
New England Patriots	60
New York Jets	63

AFC CENTRAL

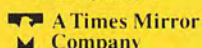
Cincinnati Bengals	66
Cleveland Browns	70
Houston Oilers	74
Pittsburgh Steelers	78

Team previews were written by correspondents who cover the clubs weekly for The Sporting News during the football season. Their reports and the rosters and depth charts in this publication were prepared before training camp and may not reflect late changes and injuries.

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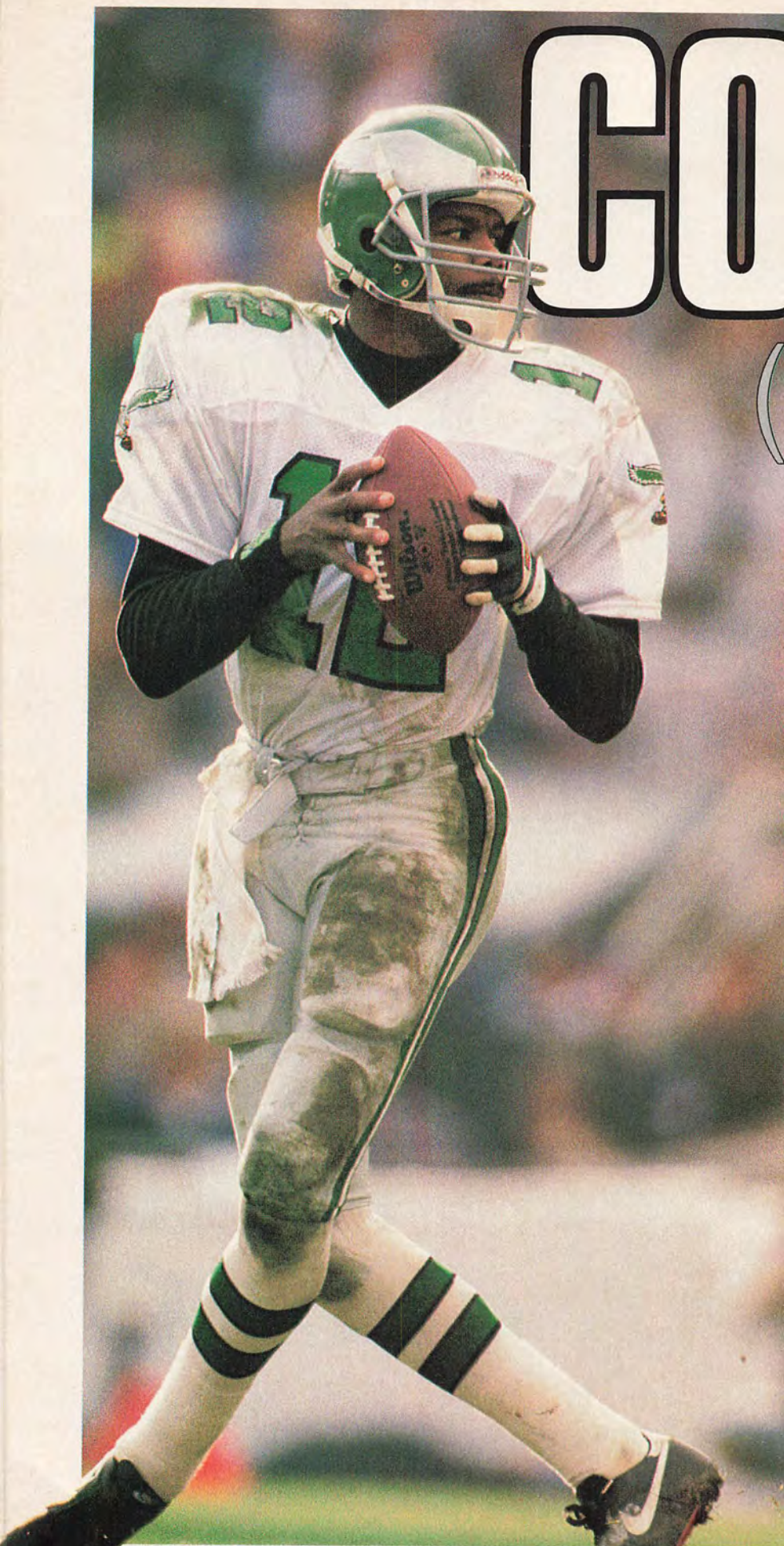
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COLOR

(Almost,

Cunningham, black-QB myth

By PHIL ANASTASIA
Camden Courier-Post

There is no announcement when a myth is destroyed. Nobody cuts a ribbon with an oversized pair of scissors, makes a speech or throws a party.

Warren Moon has never stood behind a podium and explained his role in the destruction of the Blacks-Can't-Play-Quarterback-in-the-National Football League myth.

Randall Cunningham has never awakened one morning, sensed a change in the air and said to himself: "That's that. It's over, finally."

No. These things take time. There's no scoreboard, statistics or standings to measure progress.

It's gradual, subtle. A way of thinking is changed over football generations, not football seasons.

Besides, not everybody—including Moon—agrees that the thinking has changed completely. The Houston Oilers' perennial Pro Bowl player suspects a double standard might still exist.

Black quarterbacks with star potential—like Moon, Philadelphia's Cunningham and Detroit's 1990 No. 1 pick, Andre Ware—are OK. No problem with these fellas. Their talent is obvious.

But what about the mediocre, unpolished guys? What about the guys who need a few years to develop? What about the guys who have to sit on the bench and chart the plays and wait for their chance?

Obvious talent: *Even a casual National Football League observer could recognize the wide-ranging skills of the Philadelphia Eagles' Randall Cunningham, who could be termed a "franchise" type of player.*

JEFF CARLICK

BLIND

Anyway)

Moon quashing in pro football

"That's my biggest criticism," said Moon, whose 527-yard passing performance against Kansas City last December was the second best in league history. "If you're not a franchise guy that can carry a team right away, I think some teams are still reluctant to draft you, groom you, project you toward the future."

"I still don't know if enough teams are willing to take a guy in the middle rounds—maybe he didn't play at a big school, or he played at a school that didn't pass the ball—and project him as their quarterback of the future. I still don't think there's enough of that."

Moon's feelings are shared by others. Former Washington star Doug Williams made many of the same points in his often-bitter autobiography, "Quarterback," which was released last year. Don McPherson, who captured the Maxwell and O'Brien awards at Syracuse in 1987, suspects his race was the reason he lasted until the sixth round of the 1988 draft.

"To me, it's completely ridiculous," said McPherson, currently Philadelphia's third-string quarterback behind Cunningham and Jim McMahon. "If you do something and you excel at it, you should be afforded the opportunity to do it at the next level. People who said to me coming out of college, 'Play this position or play that position,' they just didn't want to give me an opportunity."

Continued

Needs convincing: Warren Moon of the Houston Oilers says some NFL teams are still reluctant to groom a black quarterback.



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COLORBLIND

(Almost, Anyway)

Opportunity seems to be the operative word when discussing the evolution of black quarterbacks in the NFL.

"What happened was that Randall and I got with an organization that gave us an opportunity," Moon said. "That's all we needed. That's all a lot of guys needed. And there were guys before us, I believe, that never got the chance that we're getting now."

"Maybe we've helped tear down some of the stereotypes in the eyes of some owners and some general managers."

Maybe. But some NFL people contend that Moon and Cunningham haven't helped to destroy any myth. In their opinion, one never existed.

Eagles President Harry Gamble, whose team has employed three black quarterbacks in the last two years—Cunningham, McPherson and practice squader Ben Brown, who has since been released—isn't sure there ever was a bias in the NFL against non-white quarterbacks.

Gamble might be a tad idealistic, but he isn't naive. He said sports teams are unique in the United States for being equal opportunity employers.

"Look out there on the field," Gamble

said during an Eagles mini-camp last spring. "In this business, if you can do the job, you get the job. I think that's more true in sports than in a lot of other places."

New York Giants General Manager George Young bristles at suggestions that the NFL has operated in the past under some sort of unspoken agreement about black quarterbacks.

"Coaches are selfish," Young said. "They are going to play the players that give them the best chance of continuing to make their mortgage payments. It's not a political issue. It's a sport issue. If you can play, the coach will play you. It's as simple as that."

The debate about black quarterbacks in the NFL was fueled in the 1970s by James Harris of the Los Angeles Rams, Joe Gilliam of the Pittsburgh Steelers and Williams, who led the Tampa Bay Buccaneers to the NFC championship game in 1979 before bolting to the United States Football League four years later. He returned to the NFL with Washington in 1986 and guided the Redskins to a 42-10 victory over Denver in Super Bowl XXII the following season. He threw a Super Bowl-record four touchdown passes in one quarter.

Three years later, however, Williams was out of the league. He also was in his mid-30s, injury-prone and expensive.

"Look at last year," McPherson said. "Look at all the quarterbacks that went down late in the season (nine starters were knocked out of games in weeks 15

and 16)."

"There was a time when I was considered the best quarterback in college. Statistically, I was. At the same time, Doug Williams was winning the Super Bowl."

"So last year, with all the quarterbacks going down, teams are using Joe Ferguson, Rusty Hilger, Babe Laufenberg. Meanwhile, Doug Williams is sitting home. Don McPherson is sitting home."

What particularly irks McPherson is that he wasn't drafted until the sixth round after leading Syracuse to an undefeated season and finishing second in the Heisman Trophy balloting his senior year.

"That (his race) is the only thing that stands out," McPherson said. "I'm not a racist in any way. But I've looked at this. I've exhausted it."

McPherson also is bothered by the fact that NFL scouts rated him higher as a wide receiver than a quarterback coming out of college—despite his having led the nation in passing as a senior. To McPherson, it was almost as if he'd have to change positions to be allowed in the NFL.

"The NFL must have some good people scouting," Syracuse Coach Dick MacPherson said at the time, "because they would have had to go back to about the sixth grade to see Donnie play wide receiver."

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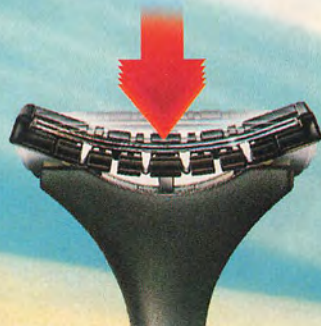


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After McPherson announced that he would play only quarterback, NFL scouts gave up on the wide-receiver notion. Young said McPherson was a sixth-round pick as a quarterback because he's about 6-foot and 185 pounds. Rodney Peete, a black who is the Detroit Lions' starting quarterback, is about the same size and also a sixth-round draftee (in 1989).

"We go by statistics in this league much like the insurance people do in Hartford, Connecticut," Young said. "The people who have been successful quarterbacks are 6-3, 6-4 and can really throw the ball. In our league, 6-foot quarterbacks don't tend to make it."

Moon, who is 6-3, 210 pounds, said he never wanted to be anything but a quarterback while growing up in Los Angeles. In a strange twist of the typical story of a black football star, Moon said he never thought he was a good enough athlete to make it big at another position.

"I knew if I was going to make it, I was going to make it as a quarterback," the 34-year-old Moon said. "I never felt

I was a great athlete. I was a good athlete for a quarterback, but certainly not a good enough athlete to compete at this level at another position.

"I had good speed, not great speed. I had good leaping ability, not great leaping ability. I had to be a quarterback."

Moon was a star quarterback at Hamilton High School in Los Angeles, at West Los Angeles Junior College and at Washington, where he was the Pacific-8 Conference's Player of the Year as a senior in 1977.

Still, Moon said he was projected as a middle-round NFL draft pick. Knowing that, he opted instead to sign with Edmonton of the Canadian Football League.

In April 1978, after he signed his CFL contract but before the NFL draft, Moon said: "I just have to be realistic about it. Color has a lot to do with it in the States. I feel I have the ability to be a drop-back quarterback in the NFL, but I'm a black quarterback, and I want to play."

Said Moon recently: "I just didn't know if an NFL team was going to put in the time and effort to groom me for the future. I was concerned about that because I knew I would need some of that before I was ready to make a big impact in the NFL."

"The CFL was offering a lot of money. I thought I would go there, play right away and get some experience."

Moon played six seasons for the Edmonton Eskimos and led them to five Grey Cup championships. He passed for 21,228 yards and 144 touchdowns during his CFL career.

In 1984, he was ready to join the NFL. On his terms.

"Once it got to the point that I could help a team right away, it was a different story," Moon said. "That's when teams came a-calling."

Moon talked with Seattle, Tampa Bay and the Giants, among other teams, but wound up going to Houston in March 1984. He signed a five-year contract worth \$6 million, which at the time was the richest in pro football history. He has started every game of his NFL career and is the only player ever to pass for more than 20,000 yards in two different leagues.

Last season, Moon completed 62 percent of his passes for a league-leading 4,689 yards and 33 touchdowns. He threw just 13 interceptions.

"Warren is the best pure passer in the league," said Cunningham, whose 30 touchdown passes in 1990 were second only to Moon. "Not to dog his receivers, but he could have had a lot more yards and touchdowns last year if they didn't drop so many balls. He's the best passer in the game today."

The interesting thing about Cunningham and Moon is that their styles are so different. If there's a single stereotype about black quarterbacks, both of them can't fit it.

Moon is a drop-back passer who has never run for more than 268 yards in an NFL season. Cunningham has led the Eagles in rushing the last four years, and his 942 yards last season were just 27 yards shy of a new NFL record for quarterbacks. In one of the most memorable plays of the 1990 season, Cunningham avoided a safety in a game against Buffalo by scrambling away from at least three defenders in the end zone before throwing a pass to Fred Barnett at midfield. The play ended in a 95-yard touchdown.

Like Moon, the 28-year-old Cunningham has appeared in the last three Pro Bowls. He has led Philadelphia to three consecutive playoff berths, but the Eagles haven't won a postseason game since 1980.

Cunningham was a star quarterback at Santa Barbara (Calif.) High School and often dreamed of following his older brother, Sam (Bam) Cunningham, to Southern Cal. He opted instead for UNLV.

And in another bit of irony, it was Cunningham—and not his college coaches—who pushed for a position change.

Continued



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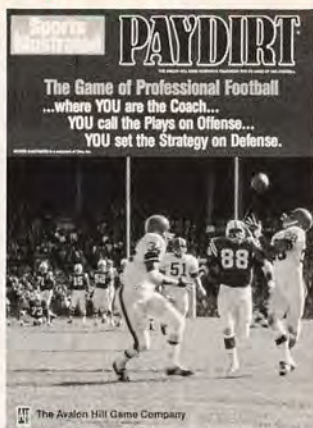
Super Bowl hero: Doug Williams fought off the Bears and everyone else in the '87 season, but three years later he was out of the league.

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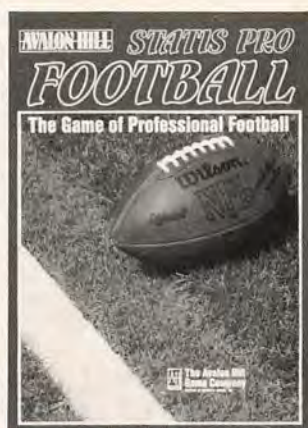
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COLORBLIND

(Almost, Anyway)

"After one year (at quarterback), I begged them to let me play another position," said the 6-4 Cunningham, who wanted to be a wide receiver. "They wouldn't let me."

"A lot of times black athletes are stereotyped as great athletes but not very good quarterbacks," said Wayne Nunnely, Cunningham's coach at UNLV. "He's a great athlete who's a great quarterback."

The Eagles selected Cunningham in the second round of the 1985 draft. He was a backup to Ron Jaworski for two years before taking over the starting job.

"He's the Halley's comet of quarterbacks," said Steve Sabol, president of NFL Films. "He's a talent that will come along once in a generation."

Cunningham said he knew there was a slim chance of a black quarterback making it in the NFL. But he said the long odds inspired, rather than intimidated, him. "I was brainwashed when I was younger," he said. "People told me I wouldn't make it. People said: 'You're not going to make it. You're a black quarterback. You'll never make it.'"

"I turned it into a positive. I said, 'OK, I'll work even harder.'"

"It's like you're running an obstacle course. You've got things in your way, but you just have to get through it."

Like Cunningham, Moon turned his perception of a bias against black quarterbacks in his favor.

"It probably was more of an incentive than a burden," Moon said. "The more people told me I couldn't do something, the more determined I became to prove them wrong. In some ways, it helped me."

The flip side of that has been the pressure. Moon said there were times when he felt he had to prove something about his race, not just himself.

"I guess it's kind of unfair, but I think

Randall and I both felt we had to accomplish as much as we had," Moon said. "It probably was more important for us than, say, two other quarterbacks, to get to this plateau."

"At times, you think that you're not playing just for yourself. You're playing for your whole race. That can be a lot of pressure."

Said Cunningham: "I used to wonder if I had to be better than all the white quarterbacks just to prove I deserved a chance. I knew a lot of people were watching me, wondering if I could make it."

What both players have done is succeed, and make a difference. They've been too good, for too long, to not have crippled the black quarterback myth.

Their impact perhaps is being felt most by today's youth. Who knows how many young kids pick up a football and say, "I'm Randall Cunningham," or "I'm Warren Moon"? It's the same as saying, "I'm O.J. Simpson," only different. Now, the young kid is dreaming of playing quarterback, the most visible position on a football field.

"Sports is socioeconomic and a little cultural," the Giants' Young said. "What is new? If you tell people that 40 years ago the best basketball players were Jewish guys, they look at you like you're crazy. But it's true."

"So now you've got these two guys (Moon and Cunningham) playing quarterback. It has an effect on the youth leagues, on the high schools. It's the way it works. It's always been that way."

Cunningham is reluctant to ponder the effect he has had on the issue of black quarterbacks in the NFL. He's a quarterback, not a historian.

Maybe in 20 years he'll look back and realize he made a difference. Maybe not.

"The big thing with me is not paving the way for other black quarterbacks," Cunningham said. "It's showing people that regardless of who you are or what color you are, male or female, if you put your mind to something, you can accomplish it."

It's impossible to measure how much Moon and Cunningham have helped other black quarterbacks. It's tough to



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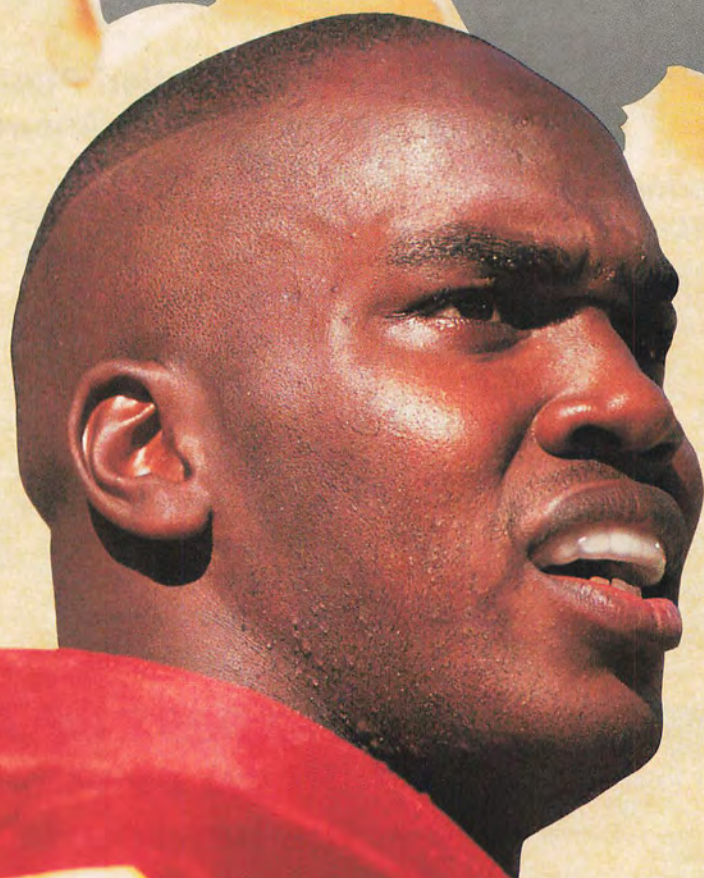
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BREAKT



In speaker role, as linebacker

By RANDY COVITZ
Kansas City Star

Time and again, Derrick Thomas bores in on the target. He might get stopped once, twice, three times. Maybe even 10 times. But, Thomas emphasizes, "If on the 11th time . . . you're still trying as hard as you were the first time, you're going to get through."

Kansas City linebacker Thomas, well on his way to becoming the "Lawrence Taylor of the 1990s," was talking about the tenacity required to be a sack-master in the National Football League. However, he could just as well have been talking about the perseverance needed in his quest to steer young people in the right direction. Working with teen-agers has its barriers, too—some impenetrable, some not.

★ ★ ★

Attired in white dress shirt and tie, Derrick Thomas stood behind a podium

THROUGH

Thomas reaches Kansas City-area youngsters; for the Chiefs, he gets to NFL's quarterbacks

at a Kansas City junior high school and stressed the importance of getting an education and staying away from drugs.

His audience, a group of 50 wisecracking, insolent teen-agers, was hardly impressed.

So what if Derrick Thomas, NFL sack leader and two-time Pro Bowl linebacker from the Kansas City Chiefs, was in their midst? It was no big deal to these kids, who were grudgingly ushered into the auditorium as part of STOP—the Student Truancy Outreach Program. They were more conversant with the colors of street gangs than the jerseys of NFL teams.

As Thomas talked, few appeared to listen. Heads were buried beneath jackets. Some students slept.

But Thomas persevered. As he gazed into the crowd, he saw Derrick Thomas of 10 years ago sitting out there. Thomas grew up in the projects of south Miami, where drugs and truancy were a way of life. But there was no one

to steer him out of the streets.

"You name the deviant act, and we did it," he said. "At the age of 12, it was a battle with myself, which side of the fence I wanted to walk on. It was a rough road for a while. I had people around me that helped me make the decision to go on to be the best I could be in a positive way."

That's why Thomas keeps making the effort to communicate with these youngsters.

"Every illegal drug you can think of comes through Miami or other cities on the coast," Thomas told his squirming audience. "I saw it every day, 14-, 15-year-olds driving around in Mercedeses, BMWs. But it's only going to last so long. I would tell any individual who embarks on something like that to think twice."

"The same car the dope dealers drive, I drive. But I can go to sleep at night and don't have to worry about somebody watching my back or if somebody is going to pull a trigger on

me. I got mine the way I should have gotten it.

"If you applied yourself in the same positive ways, you can achieve the same things. It might take you a little longer, but you can achieve the same things."

Thomas told the students that he was sent to Juvenile Hall at age 14, bounced out of high school and then dispatched to the Dade Marine Institute, a state-run, last-ditch program for troubled youth.

Realizing he was wasting his opportunity to play high school football, Thomas completed the six-month program in three months. He returned to South Miami High for the second semester of his sophomore year.

"My sophomore year, Mercury Morris came to speak to us," Thomas said of the former Dolphins running back who was imprisoned in 1983 for cocaine dealing. "He told all the horror stories

Continued



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BREAKTHROUGH

of being on drugs, selling drugs, and he said: 'I hope you guys listen because I've been through some terrible and traumatic things in my life. There are two ways to learn: You can listen and learn things, or you can experience and learn, and I hope you guys never have to experience it.' That hit home to me."

Thomas hoped his speech made a similar impression.

"I got to a great deal of them," he said. "The ones I didn't get to, they heard the message. At some point, one day, they'll remember back to what I said."

Thomas' dedication to the youngsters of Kansas City has led to his creation of the Third and Long Foundation. Through appearances, donations and projects, Thomas hopes to raise \$100,000 annually to benefit disadvantaged youth.

In just two years, Third and Long has instituted a library reading program, summer camps, tutoring programs, a Christmas party and a summer basketball league. Every Saturday afternoon before home games, Thomas and several teammates go to a library in Kansas City's inner city and spend an hour reading and discussing stories with about 50 children aged 9-13.

"We had kids go from Cs and Ds to the honor roll just because they were motivated to read," Thomas said. "They felt we cared."

★ ★ ★

If there's one lesson Thomas emphasizes to youngsters, it's to set goals. Thomas, who led the NFL with 20 sacks last season, sets them himself.

"My first year (in the NFL), I set a goal to make the Pro Bowl," said Thomas, who commemorated the occasion with the license plate "IMAYDIT" on his Mercedes, which he parks next to a Jeep with a plate that reads, "ISACQBS."

"My second year, I wanted to lead the NFL in sacks. I didn't set a goal to set a record with seven sacks in one game, but that was part of the goal to be a sack leader.

"This year, my goal is to become the best defensive player in the National Football League. Bruce Smith (Buffalo's standout defender) is one of my good friends, and I'm good friends with all the rest of the best of the game. I'm not going to say I am *the* best, or whatever, because I may not be the best on a given day. But on some days, I may be the best. So this year, my campaign is to become the best."

There was no denying that Thomas was the best last November 11 against Seattle.

Thomas, who had totaled just one sack in his previous three games, sacked Seattle quarterback Dave Krieg an NFL-record seven times, breaking

JON SOOHOO/BERNSTEIN ASSOC.

A believer in goals: Derrick Thomas set out to lead the National Football League in sacks last season—and he wound up doing exactly that.

the single-game mark of six set by San Francisco's Fred Dean in 1983.

Unfortunately, the game turned on the sack that Thomas didn't get. With four seconds left in the game, Krieg wriggled out of Thomas' grip around the waist and threw a 25-yard touchdown pass to Paul Skansi for a 17-16 Seahawks victory.

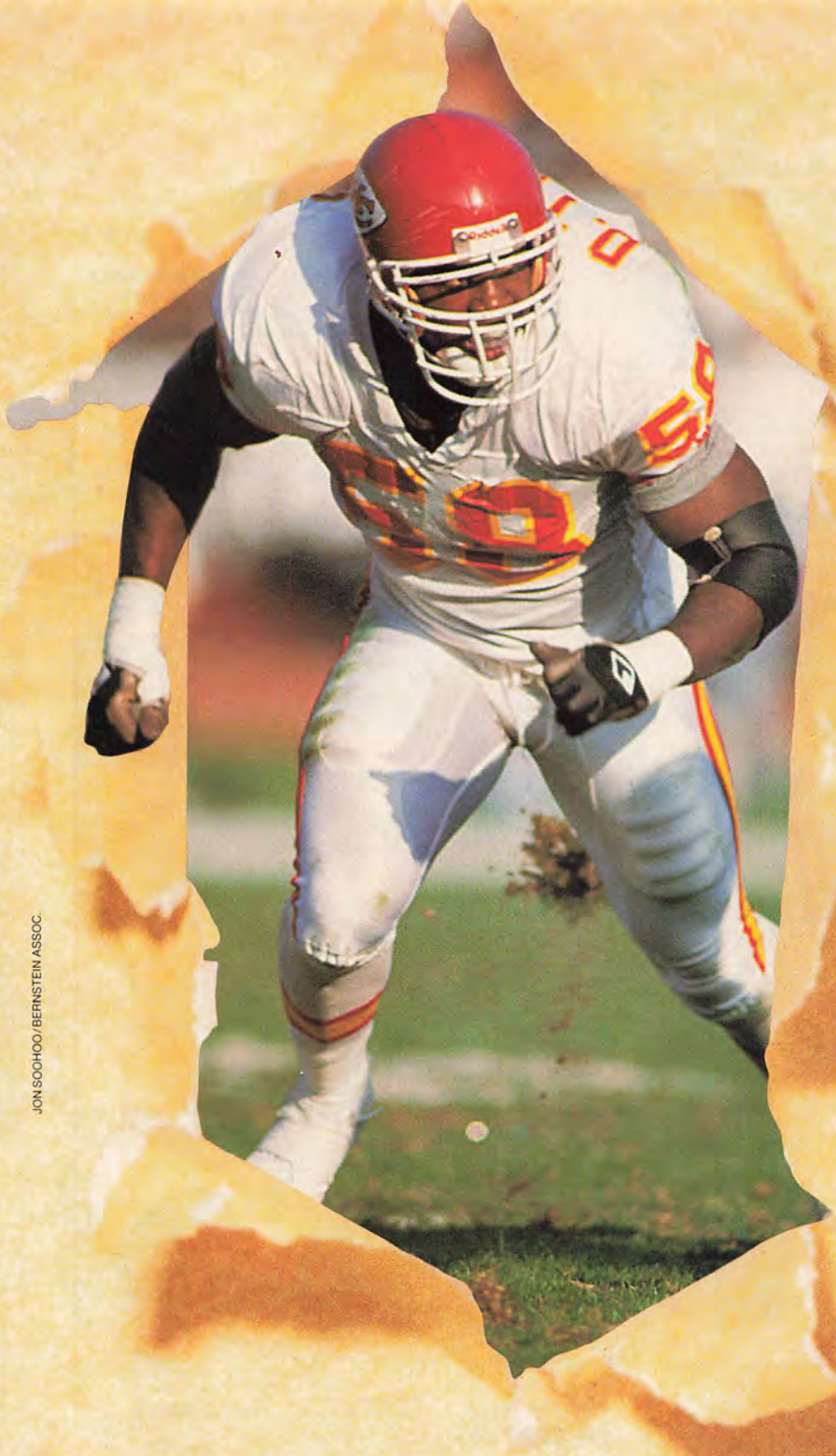
"That's the one I probably will remember," Thomas said after the game.

The other moment he'll always remember preceded the game—which

was played on Veterans Day. In a pre-game salute, four Air Force jets flew over Arrowhead Stadium, and Capt. Jim Preston presented Thomas with a yellow headband decorated with jets.

Thomas wore it during the game in honor of his father, Air Force Capt. Robert Thomas, whose B-52 bomber was shot down in December 1972 in Vietnam during a raid that was called Operation Linebacker.

Capt. Thomas made sure the rest of his crew parachuted to safety and then,



according to crew members, he jumped out just before the aircraft exploded. The rest of the crew survived. Thomas was never found.

Derrick Thomas, who was 5 years old at the time, has yet to give up hope his father is alive.

"They don't know if he was captured or what," Thomas said. "There's a chance he's still over there. As long as there are people over there, there's still hope."

"I was definitely on a mission in that game," Thomas said. "On that day, all the guys who had given their all in past wars meant more than me saying, 'I'm going to go out and play good today.' That didn't mean anything anymore."

A few months later, the war in the Persian Gulf struck a nerve.

"It got me thinking a lot," Thomas said. "When they had POWs parading through the streets, and all the countries were upset that Iraq was not cooperating with the Geneva Convention, I thought: 'Is that what happened to my father? Is that what happened to the rest of the POWs?'"

The Veterans Day salute wasn't the only thing on Thomas' mind. During that week, Thomas had had a heart-to-heart talk with Chiefs Coach Marty Schottenheimer and was told he wasn't playing as well as he could. The Chiefs also devised a new wrinkle that enabled Thomas to get clear shots at Krieg.

"We were in a defense called 41 odd," said Thomas, whose standout play last year helped the Chiefs to only their second playoff appearance in 19 seasons. "It put me out extended one man past the tackle. And every time we ran that defense, I got a sack."

Seattle's beleaguered left tackle, Andy Heck, said of the 24-year-old Thomas, "He is undoubtedly one of the most gifted athletes there is. But don't forget, it wasn't just me he beat."

Indeed, the Seahawks, as well as other teams, double- and triple-team Thomas, a 6-foot-3, 234-pounder with 4.58 speed over 40 yards. In the seven-sack game, Seattle double-teamed Thomas with Heck and guard Edwin Bailey, and if he got past them, there was fullback John L. Williams, one of the best blocking backs in the league.

Once, Bailey drew a flag for holding—he actually was riding Thomas bareback—and Thomas still got the sack.

Thomas is learning to cope with the extra attention.

"Two years' experience will help me," Thomas said. "I'll be able to say, 'They're double-teaming me on my up-the-field moves, and they're triple-teaming me on my move up under. So I have to do something else. You get older and experience is your best weapon. You get to a point where you

anticipate things."

"I watch L.T. (Lawrence Taylor), and so many years have gone by where they double- and triple-team him, but he goes at it in a way that says, 'Hey, I know you're double-teaming me, but that doesn't make a difference because I'm going to get there anyway because I've been there before.'"

Thomas acquired his indefatigable spirit as a sophomore at Alabama.

"Our defensive coordinator, Joe Kines, told the story of Winston Churchill and the speech he gave in describing how they held off the Germans in World War II until help came. After the war, Harvard or Princeton paid Churchill to come and speak and asked him, what was the speech he gave to his troops?"

"He sized it up very simply: 'Never, never, never, never quit.' He said those six words, and he left."

"I've got a lot of tricks. If I can't do it one way, I resort to another. A lot of times trickery works. I do attribute a lot of success to my speed. But this year, hopefully I don't have to use all that speed because I'm one year older, one year more experienced, and I'll know more."

With each year, there undoubtedly will be more comparisons made between Thomas and the New York Giants' Taylor, the game's premier linebacker of the '80s. And with good reason. In Taylor's first two seasons, he had 17 sacks. Thomas, in

his first two seasons, encompassing 31 games, had 30.

"When a great linebacker came out of college," San Diego quarterback Billy Joe Tolliver said, "people used to say, 'He's the next Lawrence Taylor.' Now, they're saying, 'He's the next Derrick Thomas.'"

Thomas waxes eloquent in describing the drama of a sack.

"It's about five seconds of excitement," he said. "There's a sack on a speed rush that just happens. It's quickness throughout. I would say it's like a drag race, going for a quarter-mile, all-out, boom, you finish, the parachutes come out, either you win or you lose."

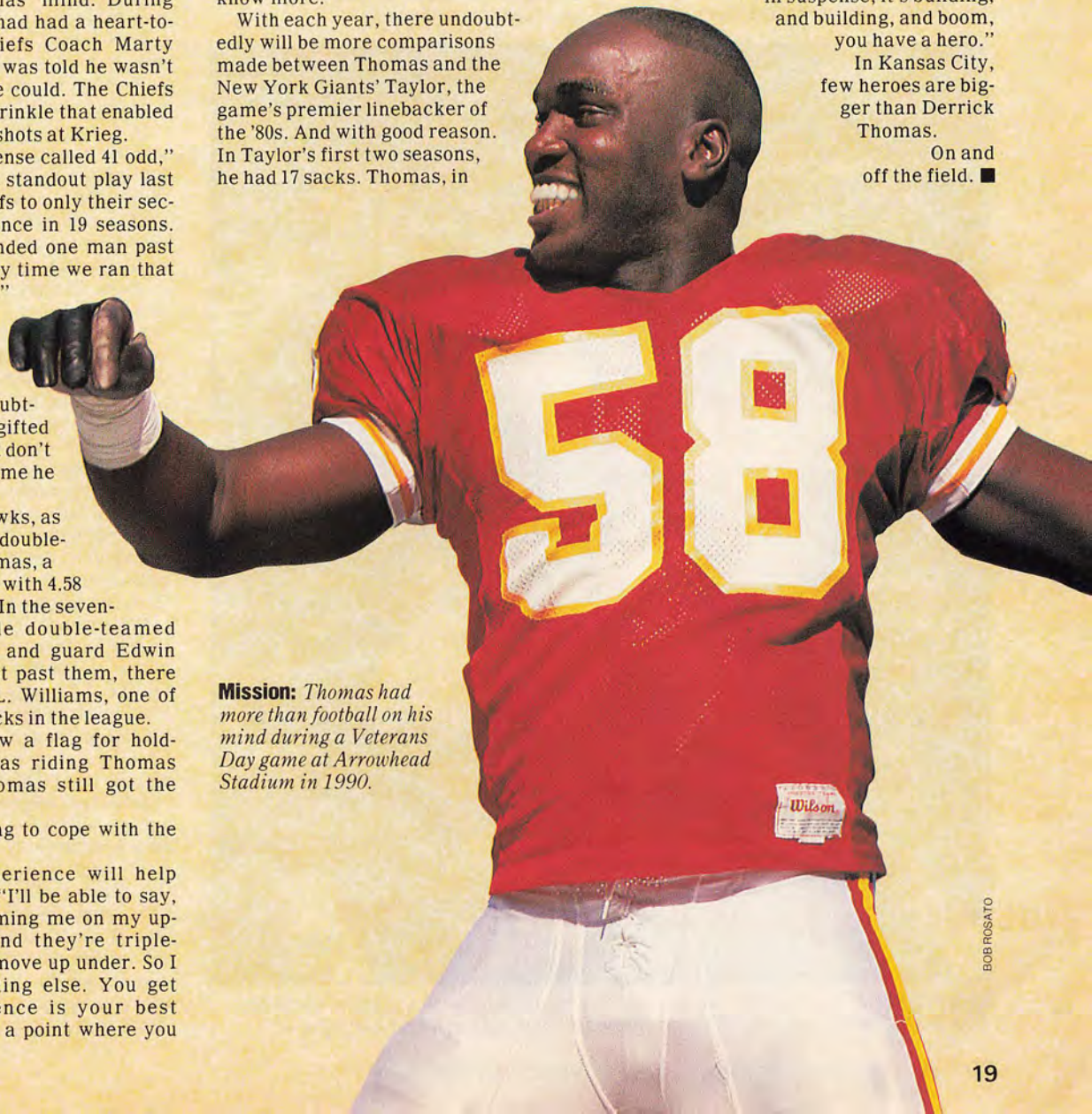
"The other kind of a sack is the cover sack. You're going through an obstacle course, and you're fighting, you're fighting, and finally at the end of the tunnel, the light appears and you come up with it. And you attribute that to everybody else, because they were doing their job."

"To me, a sack could be described as a play with a plot. You have ups and downs, and then all of a sudden, it's drawing to the conclusion, everybody is in suspense, it's building, and building, and boom, you have a hero."

In Kansas City, few heroes are bigger than Derrick Thomas.

On and off the field. ■

Mission: Thomas had more than football on his mind during a Veterans Day game at Arrowhead Stadium in 1990.



SHOW-S

Starring

BRUCE SMITH

Bills' standouts move center stage in the NFL —

By VIC CARUCCI
Buffalo News

They are arguably the best players at their respective positions in the National Football League. They play for the same team, the Buffalo Bills, and were instrumental in the

Bills' winning 15 of 19 games in 1990 and coming within two points of winning Super Bowl XXV against the New York Giants. But the differences between defensive end Bruce Smith and running back Thurman Thomas outnumber the similarities, and they reveal a great deal about both men.

Begin, if you will, with how each player entered the world of professional football. Smith was the NFL's No. 1 overall draft choice in 1985 after a stellar senior season at Virginia Tech. As such, he was the guy (there's one every year) who shook hands with the commissioner, slipped on his new team's jersey and smiled for the cameras and all the world to see. Twenty-eight NFL teams wanted Bruce Smith that day, and the Bills got him.

It seemed, however, that no team wanted Thomas when he became eligible for the draft in 1988. As is its custom, ESPN assigns a reporter to sit with a prospective draftee on the big day to gauge the player's emotions and attitude as the selection process evolves. The player ESPN chose in 1988 was Thomas, who was projected to be a first-round pick after a solid 1987 season at Oklahoma State. But Thomas had damaged his left knee while playing in a pickup basketball game two years earlier—an injury that had slowed him his junior year—and whether Thomas had fully healed from the injury was a great unknown to many NFL scouts. Thomas actually fell asleep in front of ESPN's cameras before Buffalo used a second-round pick (the Bills didn't have a first-round pick that year) to rescue him from the embarrassment.

"There isn't anybody making a living in this business who doesn't think he's one of the better running backs in the league," Cleveland Browns General Manager Ernie Accorsi said. "It's amazing, though. In this league, you have to almost overcome the fact that you weren't picked in the first round."

After last season, however, the number of people doubting Thomas dwindled considerably. He led the NFL in total yards from scrimmage (1,829) for the second straight year and would have been the league's rushing champion if modesty hadn't intervened. He sat out the second half of Buffalo's regular-season finale at Washington after carrying the ball just five times for zero yards in the first two periods. It was a



Low profile: Overcoming the "stigma" of being bypassed in the first round of the 1988 NFL draft, Buffalo's modest Thurman Thomas is making a name for himself now.

PHIL KILLING/ISI

TOPPERS

AND THURMAN THOMAS

and earn rave reviews for sterling performances

meaningless game from the Bills' standpoint and Thomas knew, with the playoffs just around the corner, that he had to stay healthy for Buffalo to have much of a postseason chance. He finished the regular season with 1,297 yards rushing, just seven yards shy of the league-leading total compiled by Detroit's Barry Sanders.

Smith, on the other hand, was anything but modest late last season as the Bills were rolling toward their third straight AFC Eastern Division title. Three days before Buffalo was to play the New York Giants at the Meadowlands in mid-December, Smith proclaimed during a conference call with the New York media that the appellation of "The NFL's Best Defensive Player"—something on which Giants linebacker Lawrence Taylor had a stranglehold in the 1980s—was now his. Then, lest his confidence be regarded as arrogance, he went out and terrorized the Giants' offense before a national television audience in a 17-13 Buffalo victory.

"By saying that, he challenged himself," Bills defensive line coach Chuck Dickerson said. "He loves a challenge; every great one does. And what he was doing was throwing down the gauntlet to the whole world, saying, 'If I don't live up to it, they're going to laugh me off the face of the earth.' And he lived up to it."

"When other players say something like that, it's lip service. They know deep down that they have limitations. But not Bruce Smith. He knows he can be the greatest who has ever played this game."

Smith certainly has the credentials to back up his boasts. He has been voted to the Pro Bowl the last four years (he was the game's Most Valuable Player in 1987) and has averaged 14 sacks a year over the last five seasons. He broke his own team record with 19 sacks a year ago and set career highs with 101 tackles, including 82 initial hits. Just about a month after his "I'm the greatest" boast in New York, the

Associated Press named Smith its 1990 NFL Defensive Player of the Year.

"He's an opposing coach's nightmare," New York Jets offensive line coach Larry Beightol said.

Washington's Jim Hanifan, a longtime NFL offensive line coach, said Smith was the league's "most formida-

ble" player since Hall of Fame defensive end Deacon Jones roamed the league in the 1960s and early '70s.

Smith was a very good player for five seasons before transforming himself into an all-world performer a year ago.

Continued



Highly visible: Bills end Bruce Smith, drafted No. 1 overall in 1985, boasts he's the NFL's premier defensive player—and gets few arguments to the contrary.

In February 1990, he decided to have arthroscopic surgery on a right knee that had been nagging him for two years. After that, he began an intensive off-season conditioning program in and around his Virginia Beach, Va., home. Between two days a week on a

Stairmaster and three days a week lifting weights, he knocked 10 pounds off his 6-foot-4 frame (dropping him to 275) and substantially increased his upper-body strength.

"I just decided I was going to prepare myself like I never have before," Smith said. "And after the way I prepared, I just didn't see myself failing."

His body-fat count of 6.1 percent is good for a running back, superb for a defensive lineman and a far cry from his first two seasons, when it hovered around 14 or 15 percent. Once an indiscriminate eater, Smith can't remember the last time he ate at a fast-food restaurant. His current diet consists mainly of pasta, poultry and fish.

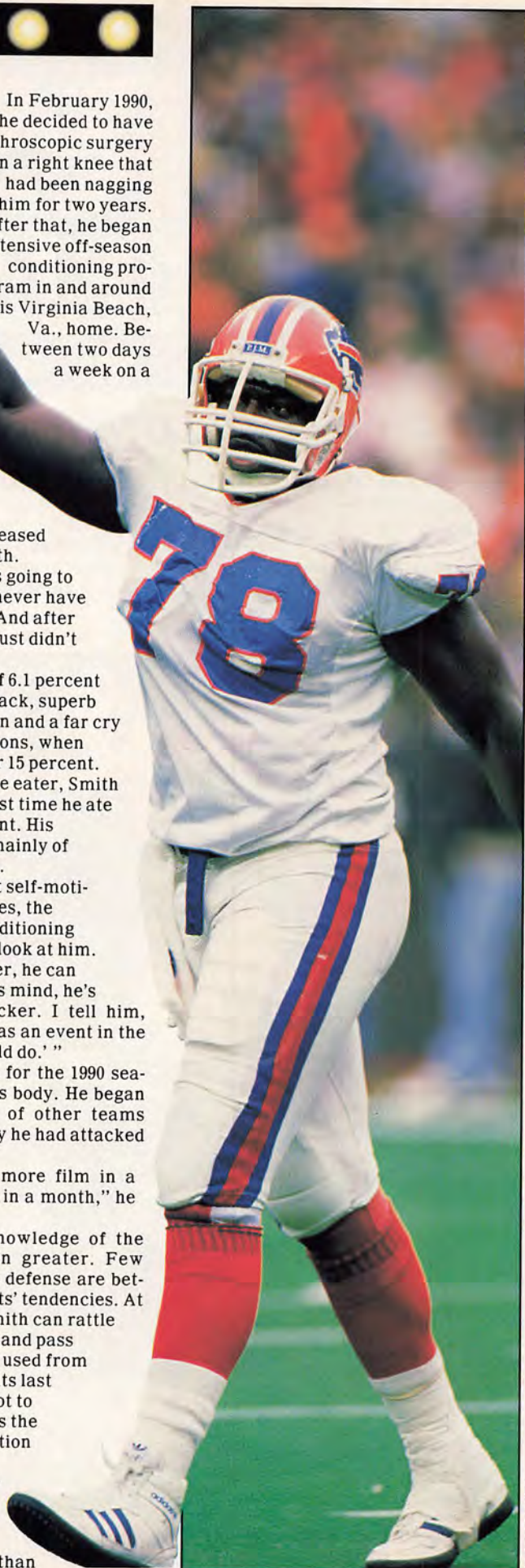
"He has been a great self-motivator," said Rusty Jones, the Bills' strength and conditioning coordinator. "I mean, look at him. He kills the Stairmaster, he can vertical jump out of his mind, he's as quick as a linebacker. I tell him, 'Bruce, I wish there was an event in the Olympics that you could do.'"

Smith's preparation for the 1990 season didn't stop with his body. He began studying game films of other teams with the same intensity he had attacked his physical training.

"I probably watch more film in a week than I watch TV in a month," he said.

As a result, his knowledge of the game has never been greater. Few players on the Buffalo defense are better at reading opponents' tendencies. At the snap of a finger, Smith can rattle off what running plays and pass protections a team has used from a certain formation in its last half a dozen games—not to mention how it protects the quarterback in play-action situations.

"And he's able to isolate the thought process in a manner that educates him for the war at hand better than



other guys," Dickerson said. "I watch films day and night, but I don't see what Bruce sees. It's just a more vivid, clear picture than that of the players who don't have the ability he has."

Gone are the days when most of Smith's information was fed to him, at the line of scrimmage, by outside linebacker Darryl Talley.

"He used to sit back and wait and see what I'd say, then play it from there," said Talley, an eight-year veteran of the Buffalo defense. "Now he has a faster start on the down. He doesn't have to turn around, look at me and, once I say something, decide what move he's going to use. Now he can look at the formation and decipher it correctly. He knows what type of move he's going to use before he does it."

Smith also has come to the realization that, in order to become a dominant NFL player, he must give optimal effort on each play. At Virginia Tech, he could get away with relaxing for a down or two. But NFL teams are too geared toward stopping him, with double- and triple-teaming, for any snap to be taken lightly.

"Bruce has always been the type of player who can come up with great, spectacular plays every now and then," Talley said. "But now he's become more consistent at doing it. Where you may see a guy take a play off or take a break from a play, he won't do that. He'll play a running down just as hard as he'll play a passing down. He's just an unbelievable competitor."

Thomas, at 25, is three years younger than Smith and perhaps the most selfless player on a team known for internal strife. In a Monday night game against the Jets last September, Thomas declined an invitation by Coach Marv Levy to continue playing in a game the Bills led by three touchdowns early in the fourth quarter. He already had carried the ball 18 times for 214 yards and needed just 62 more yards to break Walter Payton's single-game NFL record. The record was within his grasp, but Thomas had little desire to show up a beaten opponent.

Bills running backs coach Elijah Pitts, for one, couldn't believe it.

"Talk about a team player," Pitts said. "Here he was, playing before millions on 'Monday Night Football' with a shot at a record most running backs would kill for, and he was thinking about the team, instead of himself."

Although other factors were involved as well, the Bills became a winning team when Thomas came aboard in 1988. In the three years preceding his

Continued

Optimal effort: As the self-anointed No. 1 defender in the league, Bruce Smith can't—and won't—let up on any play.

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arrival (1985-87), Buffalo's record was 13-34. In the following three seasons the Bills have gone 34-14 and won three division titles.

Last year, the Bills scored more points (428) than any other NFL team, and the player most responsible for it was Thomas, who fits perfectly in Buffalo's no-huddle offensive scheme. No-huddle offenses require a rapid-fire succession of plays, and Thomas is just as deadly a pass receiver as he is a runner.

And, similar to Smith's role on defense, Thomas' mere presence makes the Buffalo offense better. Sure, wide receiver Andre Reed was a big contributor in 1990 with 71 receptions for 945 yards and eight touchdowns. And veteran James Lofton, a big-play wide receiver, and tight end Keith McKeller were important, too.

But their success, to a great extent, was dictated by Thomas. The extra attention he drew on every down as a running/receiving threat opened things up for everyone else. The most telling proof of that came in the Bills' 51-3 victory over the Los Angeles Raiders in the championship game. In the first 30 minutes of that game, the 5-10, 198-pound Thomas handled the ball on more than half of the Bills' offensive plays and gained 170 yards. He ran 20 times for 109 yards and picked up 61 more on five receptions. Buffalo led, 41-3, at the intermission.

"The guy knows how to run," said Hall of Famer O.J. Simpson, a former Bills running back. "Most backs don't have the understanding of the game that Thurman does. He's what I call an educated runner. And, like all great runners, he expects to go the distance every time he touches the ball. Some backs, like Herschel Walker, break into the open and it's like they are surprised. They can't believe they are there. Thurman expects to be there. He's surprised when he's not."

Said Thomas: "I think I'm still improving. As time has gone on, I've gotten better at reading the blocks."

His offensive linemen are quick to second that. With each season, the job of blocking for Thomas has become "a hell of a lot easier," according to left tackle Will Wolford.

"You know if you have your man blocked well, (Thomas is) not going to make the bad cut," Wolford said. "His quickness through the hole and cuts are unmatched."



"I tell you," Reed said, "when Thurman first came here, I thought he was just a runner. But he has turned into probably the most versatile back in the league. Not only does he take pressure off me, but off James (Lofton) and Keith (McKeller), too."

However, the player most relieved of pressure is probably quarterback Jim Kelly, because Thomas is such an effective dump-off target. That is an invaluable option in an offense that relies so heavily on quick decision-making.

"That's one of the things we always work on in practice—my telling him (Kelly) where I'm going to be all the time in case he wants to use me as an outlet," Thomas said.

Both players have come a long way since 1989, when Thomas became one of the quarterback's more vocal critics in the year of the "Bickering Bills." Shortly after Kelly publicly blasted offensive tackle Howard Ballard for allowing a hit that caused the quarterback to suffer a separated shoulder, Thomas publicly blasted Kelly for showing up a teammate.

Almost two years later, he doesn't regret it.

"I knew Kelly was King Stud on the team, but I wasn't going to let that bother me because that's the way I am," Thomas said.

It wasn't the first time Thomas had upbraided a teammate. During Thomas' freshman season at Oklahoma State, star defensive end Leslie O'Neal ripped a young teammate mercilessly during a practice before the Gator Bowl. Afterward, Thomas walked up to the 6-4, 260-pound O'Neal, tilted his head back and told him that what he had done was wrong. At first, Thomas wasn't certain if he had just signed his own death warrant. But he and O'Neal worked things out and have been friends ever since.

The same holds true for Thomas and Kelly.

"Thurman became a team leader that day," Simpson said. "He took on Goliath, and I think he gained a lot of respect from teammates who had grown tired of Jim's finger-pointing."

Over the last three years, Thomas has turned the rage and embarrassment he felt on 1988 draft day into a motivational reference point. Before each game since his rookie year, he has watched a videotape of his draft-day slumber on ESPN. And as he watches, he quietly ponders the fact that 23 NFL teams could have made him a No. 1 draft pick but chose not to.

"I don't get fired up like I used to when I watch it," Thomas said. "I used to get angry. Now, after it's over, I just laugh." ■

Not this time: Buffalo's Thurman Thomas expects to find plenty of running room—but it doesn't always happen.

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A bargain-basement sale or just a blue-light special, it's NFL-style free agency



Plan B prize: Nose tackle Dan Saleaumua (97) has had a nose for the football since he signed with the Kansas City Chiefs in 1989.

By RANDY COVITZ
Kansas City Star

It was February 1989 and Dan Saleaumua, who spent his off-season pouring concrete at a Phoenix construction site, received a certified letter from his team, the Detroit Lions.

"I thought I was being cut," the nose tackle said. "But the letter said I could talk to any team I wanted. I didn't know anything about Plan B."

He soon found out. As did hundreds of other National Football League players.

Three years ago, the NFL, as a way to placate the courts while a collective bargaining agreement with the players was at a stalemate, instituted a form of free agency called Plan B. Each team was allowed to protect 37 players on February 1, leaving the rest of its rostered players free to sign with other teams by April 1 without restrictions or compensation.

That two-month period has turned into the NFL's version of a bargain-basement sale at Macy's. Or in some cases, a blue-light special at Kmart.

Saleaumua, who was a seventh-round draft choice stuck playing behind Jerry Ball at Detroit, took advantage of his new-found free agency and signed with Kansas City.

By midseason, he was a starter. And in his two seasons with the Chiefs, Saleaumua, 25, has emerged as perhaps the best Plan B acquisition anyone has made.

He has started 24 games for Kansas City, and his 11 fumble recoveries, including one for a touchdown, are the most in the NFL over the last two years.

"In Plan B, you've got to pick a place you can play," Saleaumua said. "The money is a part of it, but you've got to go somewhere you can fit. Why would I go someplace that doesn't play that many defensive linemen?"

"The new Plan B worked out real good for me. I was fortunate I was able to go to a system that not only works, but fit me perfect as far as playing the nose tackle position."

While Plan B worked out well for Saleaumua, there's still a question whether it's a worthwhile system. And if it has a future.

Does Plan B reward fringe players at the expense of starters who are unable to gain free agency because they are protected by their teams?

Is it a viable way for struggling teams to rebuild? And is it worth the millions of dollars spent in recruiting, relocating and signing so many marginal players to lucrative contracts?

Even NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue isn't certain. When asked during the NFL draft last April whether Plan B

RON VESELY

was working and if it will continue next year, Tagliabue wasn't sure.

"I think Plan B had its time and place," Tagliabue told ESPN's Chris Berman. "I think better things could be developed. I think it has created some problems with the players that the clubs are tending to regard as expendable. Players they could release are out there negotiating as free agents and others are not. So I think there will be some revisions in that area."

First, some history. Plan B was unilaterally implemented by the NFL after Plan A was rejected by the NFL Players Association, which has not had a collective bargaining agreement with the league since 1987.

"Plan A was an entry-level wage scale, plus the old system of draft-choice compensation (for free agents)," said Mike Duberstein, director of research for the NFLPA. "There were increases in pension and severance, plus modest increases in other benefits. Management said, 'We're willing to give you big increases in benefits and we promise we'll bid for players because there will be an entry-level wage scale. Trust us.' But no veteran player trusts management."

"Plan A was a travesty. Plan B was unacceptable. But it is an opening of the door to limited player movement. But it is not free agency. You cannot talk to your own club."

In the first year of Plan B (after the 1988 season), 289 of 619 eligible free agents changed teams. Following the 1989 season, 184 of 490 switched. After last year, only 139 of 518 players moved.

One reason for the decrease is that teams got better at manipulating their rosters. They protected their promising young players and exposed their aging veterans who had high salaries and ties to the community.

Hence, some big-name and high-salaried players such as Ronnie Lott, Roger Craig and Matt Millen, who were going to be phased out by San Francisco, took pay cuts and left the 49ers for better playing, if not paying, opportunities.

And for the third straight year, Ottis Anderson, hero of the Super Bowl, was left unprotected and no one signed him.

"Who wants an old, beat-up running back like me who's past his prime?" said Anderson, 34.

"Teams have improved about who they protect and who they don't protect," Washington General Manager Charley Casserly said. "The first year there were some young players who were on injured reserve and people felt they could pass through, and some players were signed who ended up helping teams."

"Another factor is players are reluctant to leave teams. . . . Now a player

will get some money up front, but ask, 'Why would I leave a team where I just got paid a whole salary, and I played?' The first year it was a rush to take the money."

Oh, but the money was still there this year. The Dallas Cowboys signed tight end Alfredo Roberts, a decent blocker who caught all of 43 passes in three years with Kansas City, to a four-year, \$2 million deal, including a \$150,000 signing bonus. And defensive end Jeff Faulkner, who has been cut four times since 1987 and earned \$90,000 last year at Indianapolis, signed a three-year deal with Phoenix for \$1.625 million, including a \$150,000 signing bonus.

Those who didn't leave their teams were rewarded as well.

"There were more deals made up front prior to the start of Plan B, deals made for players not to leave," said Jack Mills, a well-respected agent. "Teams would give players a bonus and give them a new contract before February 1, then put them on Plan B with the understanding they won't leave. There was quite a bit of that."

"Fewer people changed teams, but more deals were made."

In fact, the decrease in signings was misleading, said New York Giants General Manager George Young.

"You have to be careful when you look at these numbers," Young said. "We keep figures not only on signings, but on tryouts and physical exams. By our count, there were 667 tryouts and physical exams (league-wide) last year and 659 this year."

"The conclusion I draw is that the interest is still there in Plan B, but teams are being more selective. Plus, we're getting to the point where some of these guys have been available two, maybe three years running now."

Even Duberstein concedes that the protected veterans who aren't given the freedom of Plan B have benefited financially.

"Plan B has had a major effect on salaries in the NFL," Duberstein said. "It brings lower-salaried players up, and the threat of legal action has brought up salaries at the high end. Plan B established a benchmark for the increases of the restricted players."

"We found in the first year of Plan B in 1989 the highest (average) salary increase in league history, from \$238,000 to \$300,000 league-wide, 26 percent. In 1990, it went to \$355,000, or (about) 19 percent more."

The increase in salary packages for Plan B signees was about 60 percent, Duberstein said, and the average signing bonus rose from \$57,000 to \$76,000.

Still, some players voiced disappoint-

Continued

ment when they were left unprotected, feeling their teams were rejecting them.

"Once they get over the psychological thing of being unwanted," Duberstein said, "they realize they have an opportunity that not many players ever have."

While more defensive backs—105—have utilized Plan B than players of other positions, teams search hardest for linemen.

"Offensive and defensive linemen are like gold," Casserly said. "You can't find them, defensive linemen especially. This year, we protected eight defensive linemen and we only carried seven. We had one on injured reserve at the end of the year."

The teams most active in signing Plan B players tend to be those who are rebuilding. The 15 teams with eight or fewer victories in 1990 signed 90 of the 139 Plan B free agents in 1991—65 percent. Green Bay has been the most active, signing 46 in three years.

"For franchises that have been in disarray, down or need to rebuild or build, Plan B can play an important part in that building," Kansas City General Manager Carl Peterson said.

Peterson arrived in Kansas City in 1989, just in time for Plan B. He used that window of opportunity to sign Saleaumua, Mike Webster, Ron Jaworski and others in helping the Chiefs to the best turnaround in the NFL over the last two seasons, from 4-11-1 in 1988 to 8-7-1 in 1989 to 11-5 in 1990.

The Chiefs, who signed 29 players in the first two years of Plan B, signed seven—but also lost seven—in 1991.

"You have to weigh the fact that a team like Green Bay was the most aggressive the first year (signing 20) and they went 10-6," Peterson said. "They were aggressive the next year (signing 13) and were 6-10."

"The key is getting the right players, having them fit your puzzle, and you've got to complement them with the draft. Once you get to a level of being a good team, then you have to be concerned that the other aspect can happen—you can begin to erode your organization and lose players (to Plan B)."

Another team that was aggressive in the Plan B market was Dallas after its 1-15 season of 1989. The Cowboys signed 16 Plan B free agents in 1990 and improved to 7-9. But with 18 draft choices, including 11 in the first four rounds, in 1991, the Cowboys signed just four Plan



Moving on: Roger Craig, a key member of the 49ers' recent title teams, hopes to prolong his career with the Raiders.



Psyche survives: Ottis Anderson has been left unprotected three straight years but remains a productive Giants player.

B free agents this year.

"Coming off a 1-15 year, and with the talent level the way it was, Plan B gave us an opportunity to fill some holes and give some depth we didn't have," said Dallas personnel director Bob Ackles. "It gave us a lot more competition in training camp which we normally wouldn't have had; it gave us a number of players who started for us and played the whole season."

"Looking at Plan B this year, we are like a lot of teams: We just as soon wish it would go away. We filled some of those gaps, and we've added a little bit of depth. We got into the draft last year and realized we put out some money for some pretty good free agents and Plan B guys, so we started trading away draft choices."

"This year, we kept those draft choices and went after young guys in the draft, some college free agents after the draft, and will look at the World League of American Football."

Some teams have enjoyed success with Plan B by being selective. The Super Bowl champion Giants have signed just eight Plan B free agents over the last three years, and one, special-teams standout Reyna Thompson, went to the Pro Bowl last season.

The Los Angeles Raiders, as has been their style over the years, have been adept at plucking out veterans and squeezing a few more years out of such players as Bob Golic in 1989, Max Montoya in 1990 and the Craig/Lott entry this year. (Millen signed with the Washington Redskins.)

And then there are the Chicago Bears, who have signed one Plan B free agent—offensive lineman Kurt Becker—in three years while losing 19.

"We haven't been one of the active in the number that we've signed," said Bill Tobin, the Bears' vice president of player personnel, "but we've been active in evaluating and screening and studying and then making decisions. We look for quality rather than sheer numbers."

"Sometimes you identify someone as being able to help you, but you get outbid. If that happens, we don't go to another player just to get a name or somebody to be a roster guy. We do not operate in volume, which some clubs do."

The Bears have replenished the loss of those 19 Plan B free agents through astute drafting.

"If you can't draft, you're going to have problems," Tobin said. "If you lose them on Plan B, and can't replace them with quality draft choices, you still have problems."

Becker played for the Bears from 1982 through 1988, was waived in 1989 and eventually signed with the Los Angeles Rams. When the Rams didn't protect him in 1990, Chicago signed Becker as a Plan B free agent.

"He did fine last year," Tobin said of Becker. "We're the only team batting 1,000 on Plan B. We signed one and kept one." ■

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RISON ON THE

Falcons' receiver, known as 'Showtime' in NFL,

By LEN PASQUARELLI
Atlanta Journal-Constitution

It is mid-April in Suwanee, Ga., and wide receiver Andre Rison is kicking up more divots on the Atlanta Falcons' pale green practice field than a blindfolded golf hack. But it's not golf that's on Rison's mind today. His goal is to become a better football player.

Rison hurriedly charges six steps downfield. He plants his right foot into the well-manicured turf and pivots effortlessly into a "skinny" post pattern, producing another divot in the process.

Next, Rison dekes an invisible safety to the ground at the 20-yard line, fakes out an unseen linebacker at the 15, lopes an exaggerated five strides, then breaks into his half-geese step/half-duck walk celebratory touchdown dance dubbed "The Highlight Zone" for four more steps.

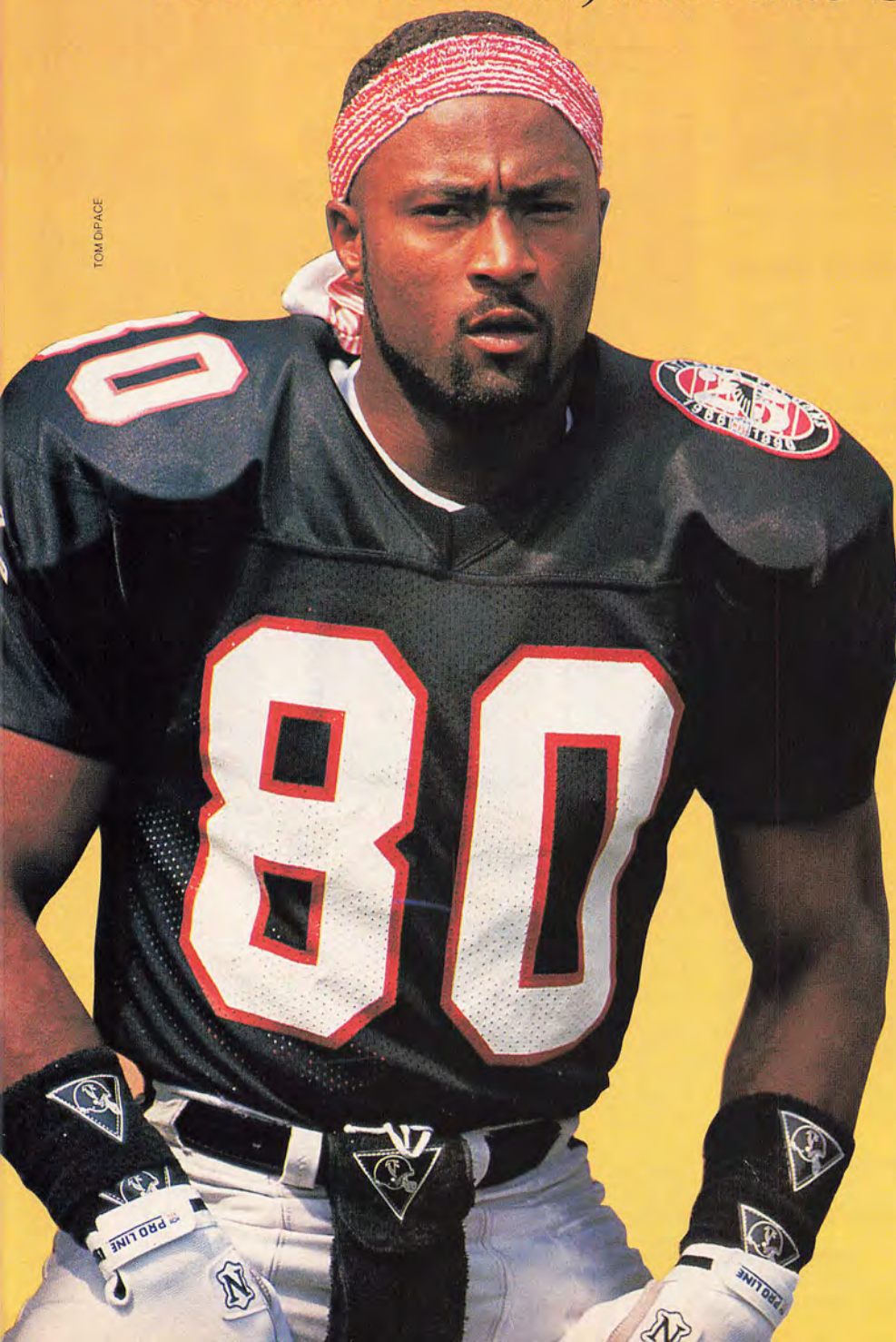
Finally, after repeating the touchdown dance a few times, and 20 minutes after most of his teammates have left the field following the club's "Operation Headstart" off-season conditioning program, Rison heads for the locker room. But on his way he pauses, turns back toward the field and, in his best feigned ghetto-hard-ass voice, snaps, "Take dat, man!" to the field, which looks as if it has been land-mined.

Take dat, indeed. Rison certainly has done a number on the Falcons' practice turf, but that's nothing compared to all the highlights the man dubbed "Showtime" has unearthed in his first two professional seasons.

Most impressive is Rison's 1990 highlight reel, which features 1,208 yards receiving and 10 touchdown receptions. He also established club single-season marks for receptions (82), 100-yard games (five), consecutive 100-yard games (four), consecutive games with

Personal affront: Atlanta's Andre Rison, still indignant months later, can't believe a pass wasn't thrown his way in the Pro Bowl that followed the 1990 season.

TOM D'PACE



HORIZON



talks — and also plays — a good game

a touchdown catch (three) and most passes caught in a three-game period (30).

But numbers bore Rison. He has bigger goals—namely, to be considered the best receiver in the National Football League.

Rison got a chance to showcase his talents in last February's Pro Bowl. He was excited when he heard he was named to the National Football Conference Pro Bowl team for the first time and was honored as a consensus All-Pro—the singular honor that obsessed him over the second half of the 1990 campaign. Now this was his chance to roll out his highlight film and treat his peers to a little "Showtime." But Rison never got a chance to feed his film into the projector because not a single pass was thrown his way.

"They never even looked at me, not once," he recalled, making no effort to hide his bitterness. "You go all that way to Hawaii, and for what? To not even catch one damn ball? Here I was, all proud to be there, supposed to be in the same class as a (Jerry) Rice, right? And I'm a starter and I get shut out. No way can you get shut out in an all-star game like that. You think they'd drag Jerry Rice over there and not throw him one stinkin' pass? Uh-uh. My friends couldn't believe it. I couldn't believe it. Well, they'll see now. They've messed with the wrong guy."

It's hard to argue with Rison, who reached 100 career receptions in 24 games (faster than all but two receivers in NFL history). He feels that he has not received the acclaim he's due, and he is prepared to kick up plenty of divots in opposition secondaries this season to prove it.

"Andre Rison," said Falcons backup quarterback Gilbert Renfro, "is fixin' to have himself a big year. With a capital 'B.'"

But even as Rison prepares for a big 1991 season, he still can't spit out the bitter taste left in his mouth by his Pro Bowl experience. Because of that game, a season that was filled with

birdies went onto Rison's personal scorecard as a triple bogey. If his records weren't expunged, they were certainly diminished by that game, which he perceives as little more than a personal affront.

The last time Rison was so angry was following an embarrassing 41-6 loss to the New Orleans Saints on Christmas Eve 1989, when he was a member of the Indianapolis Colts. The Colts were battling for a playoff spot, but the defeat ended their season. After the team arrived back in Indianapolis, the fuming Rison couldn't sleep, so he decided to drive home to Flint, Mich. He flopped into his new Mercedes, pointed the car north and nearly put the pedal through the metal. It wasn't until 90 minutes outside of Indianapolis, when he saw the telltale flashing red lights of a police car in his rear-view mirror, that Rison even bothered to glance at the speedometer. An Indiana highway patrolman had clocked Rison's car traveling 170 mph.

"I didn't realize how fast I was going," Rison said. "It didn't seem much more than 80, maybe 90, tops. In a car like that, you don't feel the speed, it's so smooth. But I didn't want any trouble or anything. I just wanted to get home to my family and my mother."

Especially, it seems, to his mother, Merdice Rison, who is largely responsible for the fact that her son is catching passes instead of knocking them down.

"I was an All-America defensive back in high school, and I think that's what Michigan State really wanted me for when they recruited me," recalled Rison, who also played 24 basketball games at Michigan State. "Maybe if I'd met my main 'Homeboy' (Falcons cornerback Deion Sanders, Rison's closest friend on the team) back then, I'd have stayed at defensive back. But I didn't think you could get as much attention playing back there as Homey's gotten for himself. And I kind of liked attention."

"My mother, she knew all about 'Showtime.' She told me: 'Andre, you

know how much you love that lime-light, honey. You play where you can make something happen and people can see you.' That sealed it for me that I'd be a wide receiver the rest of my life."

Had Merdice Rison not sensed her son's affinity for center stage, Andre Previn Rison, named for the famous pianist/conductor ("I thought the name was beautiful," said Merdice), probably would not be playing a tune on NFL defensive backs. But as it turns out, NFL defensive backs are singing the blues when they have to cover Rison.

"The man plays in a run-and-shoot (Atlanta actually plays a variation of that offense), and it fits what he does best," New Orleans cornerback Robert Massey said.

Said San Francisco cornerback Don Griffin: "Rison, he runs good after the catch. He shoots off his mouth some, but he catches the ball great all the time."

Well, almost all the time. Rison, taken by the Colts as the 22nd pick of the 1989 draft, hasn't dropped many balls along the way. But as a sophomore wideout at Flint's Northwestern High School, where Rison also played basketball with current National Basketball Association players Jeff Grayer and Glen Rice, he muffed a potential winning touchdown catch on the final play of the game against archrival Powers High School. Like the pain of his Pro Bowl shutout, that hurt still lingers.

"There were seven players—seven of 'em—in the corner of the end zone waiting for me," Rison recalled. "Somehow, the ball got through all of them. The crowd was screaming 'Yeah!' because they thought I caught it. (But) somehow I dropped the ball. I just laid there in the end zone and cried."

When Rison went to school the following Monday, teammates (including his cousin Mark Ingram, who played quarterback on Rison's prep team and now is a wide receiver with the New York Giants) and students cruelly sere-

Continued

RISON

naded him with The Gap Band's song, "You Dropped a Bomb on Me." Years later, the play still is a festering wound for Rison.

And there are others: a potential 90-yard touchdown pass dropped against Northwestern when he was a junior at Michigan State . . . the trade from the Colts in 1990, which has made him so wary and at times insecure that he refuses to purchase a home in Atlanta, preferring instead to rent a condominium in the suburbs . . . and, of course, getting blanked in the Pro Bowl.

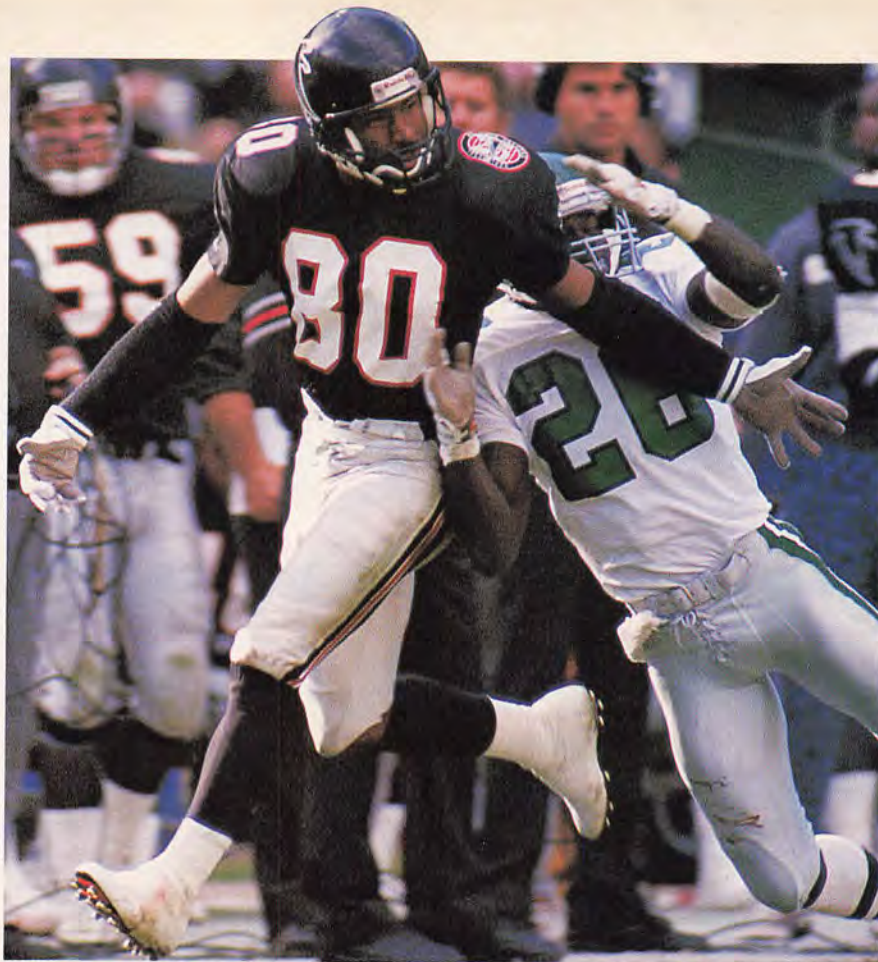
"Some stuff, events in your life, they can just tear your heart out," Rison said. "Like the trade. Maybe it's childish, but I still think about it. It might have worked out great for me, but it still means (the Colts) didn't want me. They said I was a dime-a-dozen receiver. Yeah, right. The only good thing the trade taught me was that you take nothing for granted."

The trade that tortures the 6-foot, 191-pound wideout occurred on April 20, 1990. Hungry to pick quarterback Jeff George in the '90 draft, but fearing another team might select him first, the Colts struck a deal with Atlanta, which held the draft's No. 1 pick. The Falcons acquired Rison, offensive tackle Chris Hinton, a fifth-round pick in the '90 draft and a first-round selection in the '91 draft. In return, the Colts received Atlanta's first-round pick (which they used to select George) and a fourth-round pick in 1990. It's a bit early to say for sure which team got the best of the deal, but the Falcons are pleased with the way Rison has fit into their wide-open offense.

In fact, Rison seems to be made for Atlanta's "Red Gun" offense, a spinoff of the run-and-shoot that employs four wide receivers and one running back. Lining up, usually in the left slot and frequently as a motion man running across the formation, he plays the role of "seam reader." It is a position that affords him as many as 10 to 12 "route adjustments" on a single play. Generally, Rison keys the movements of the free safety, then selects a move from his varied menu.

"When they drew up this offense, Andre is the guy they had in mind," Falcons quarterback Chris Miller said. "He's got the sixth sense it takes to make it work."

A scheme that enhances Rison's open-field running abilities should be more refined with the arrival of offensive coordinator June Jones. Rison, blessed with more tailback-type quickness and acceleration than sprinter's



Familiar view? If Andre Rison gets his way, many defenders will be seeing the back of his jersey during the 1991 National Football League season.

speed, figures he'll be improved, too. His body is healed following a succession of nagging injuries he suffered last season. And, if his psyche is still bruised, the mental black-and-blue marks will serve as motivation in 1991.

"You can tell he wants to do extra-special good this year," Merdise Rison said. "He wants to be better than Rice and all the rest."

The frequent allusions to Rice are not happenstance. For most of the '90 season, Rison had an almost abnormal fixation with Rice, who is clearly the league's most lethal passing-game force, but a player that Rison's "Showtime" persona views only as an equal. Through four games last year, Rison had 29 catches and was on course not only to become the fourth man in NFL history to catch 100 passes in a year, but also to shatter Art Monk's NFL season record of 106 receptions. But injuries to Rison and Miller forced the Falcons to run a more conservative offense over the season's second half, thereby ending any chance he had of reaching the century mark in receptions. Instead it was Rice, to whom Rison lends but grudging respect, who caught 100 balls. For now, Rison can live with that setback, but "still, not to catch even one ball in the Pro Bowl . . . well, that hurts," he said.

Only once before, in 32 regular-season games with the Falcons and Colts, had Rison failed to catch a pass.

And in that game he could barely run, let alone make a sharp cut, because of a severely sprained knee. The Pro Bowl left him with a severely sprained ego, but that probably will work to the Falcons' advantage.

"Nobody wants to win more than this guy," Falcons Coach Jerry Glanville said. "He wants to be the best, but he wants his team to be the best, too. He's a great player, but it's what he's got inside his chest and then from the shoulders up that makes him that way. He's got a tremendous competitive streak. That's what sets him apart from, say, the guys I had in Houston. He can't 'separate' like (Drew) Hill. Ernie (Givins) might be quicker. But nobody has more 'want-to' than Andre."

Rison, whose "trappin'" (the name he and Sanders have attached to their oft-inflammatory verbal gymnastics) is near-legendary, is prepared to let his feet and hands do more of the talking this season. He is prepared for another All-Pro season, prepared to help the Falcons achieve their first playoff berth since the 1982 season, prepared to rise to the top of his profession, prepared to go back to Hawaii and earn the respect of his Pro Bowl peers.

"People are going to see the back of my shirt a lot this year, so they'll know my name," Rison said. "People are going to see a lot of dust. I'm going to be the best, and I won't settle for nothin' less than that." ■

Verdict on trade still isn't in

By LEN PASQUARELLI
Atlanta Journal-Constitution

One year after the fact, the precincts have all reported. But that doesn't mean a winner can be declared in the April 20, 1990, megatrade between the Atlanta Fal-

cons and the Indianapolis Colts.

When the Falcons used the 13th choice in the first round of the 1991 National Football League draft to select Colorado wide receiver Mike Pritchard, they cashed in the final IOU slip from the six-player, pre-draft 1990 swap that netted the Colts the

right to make Illinois quarterback Jeff George the first player taken in the 1990 NFL draft.

The deal that raised eyebrows across the league saw the Falcons receive wide receiver Andre Rison, offensive tackle Chris Hinton, offensive tackle Reggie Redding (a fifth-round choice in 1990) and Pritchard. In addition to George, the Colts got Florida wide receiver Stacey Simmons (a fourth-round pick a year ago).

Atlanta officials spent the first few months after the deal privately chortling about the swindle they had pulled off, and who could argue? The Falcons got a six-time Pro Bowl offensive lineman in Hinton and a wide receiver with all-time-great potential in Rison, not to mention the two draft picks. But George started to show signs of becoming a good pro quarterback midway through last season, and now it's impossible to say that Atlanta definitely got the better end of the deal.

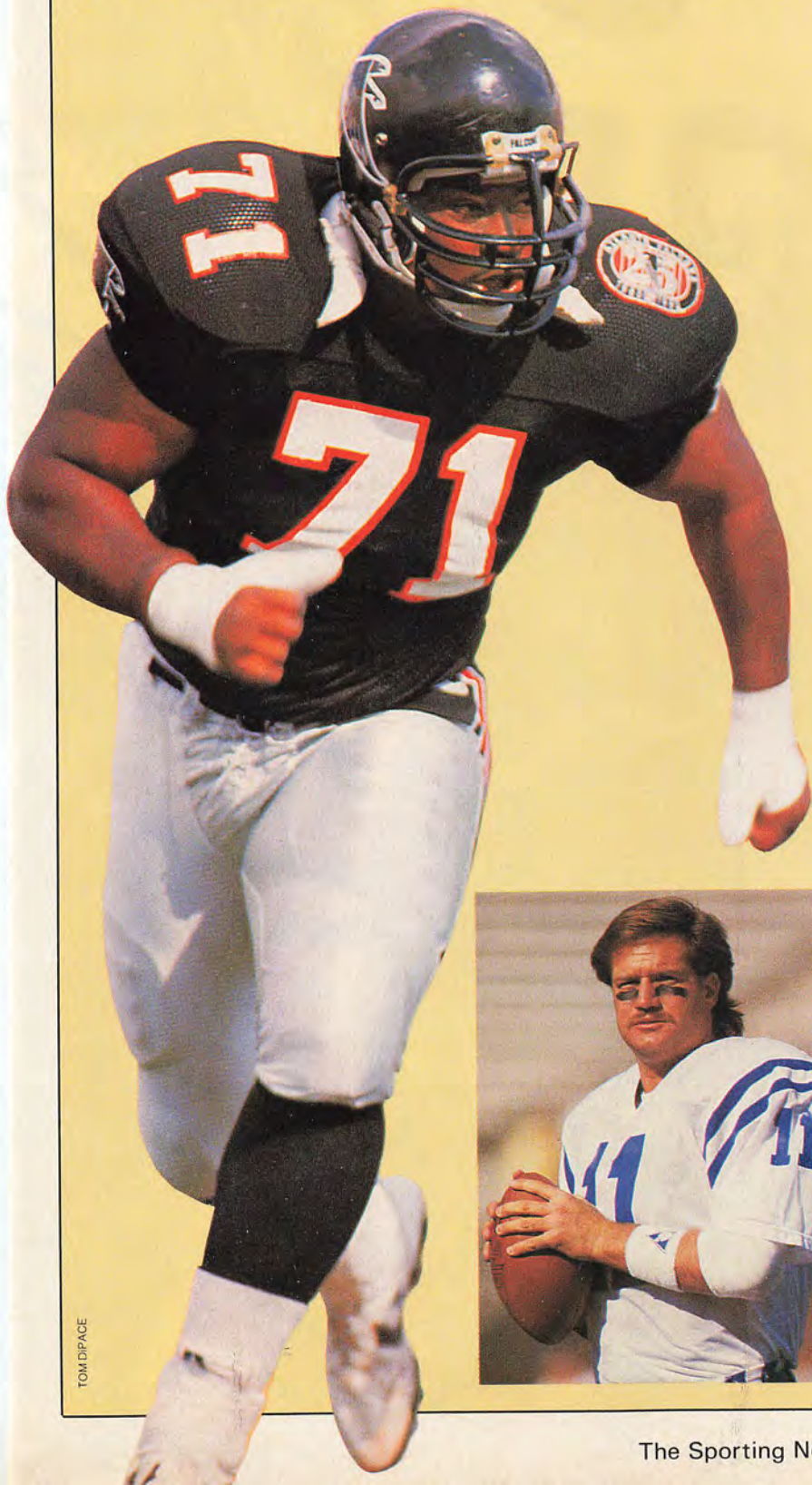
Ken Herock, Atlanta's vice president of player personnel, says the Falcons-Colts swap benefited both teams.

"We were never blowing smoke (at the time of the trade) when we talked about Jeff George being a franchise quarterback," Herock said. "Anybody that thought that is misled. We said it at the time and I'll repeat it: If we hadn't made the trade, we would have taken George. He was the premier player in that draft, the marquee guy."

"The marquee guy" started a dozen games for Indianapolis in 1990, completing 181 of 334 passes for 2,152 yards, 16 touchdowns and 13 interceptions. (Simmons, who played in 14 games, caught four passes for 33 yards and returned 19 kickoffs for an 18.3-yard average.) But the deal can't be judged a "win-win" proposition until George develops into a bona fide NFL star. Indianapolis General Manager Jim Irsay thinks George will do just that, which is why he considers the Colts' steep price tag reasonable.

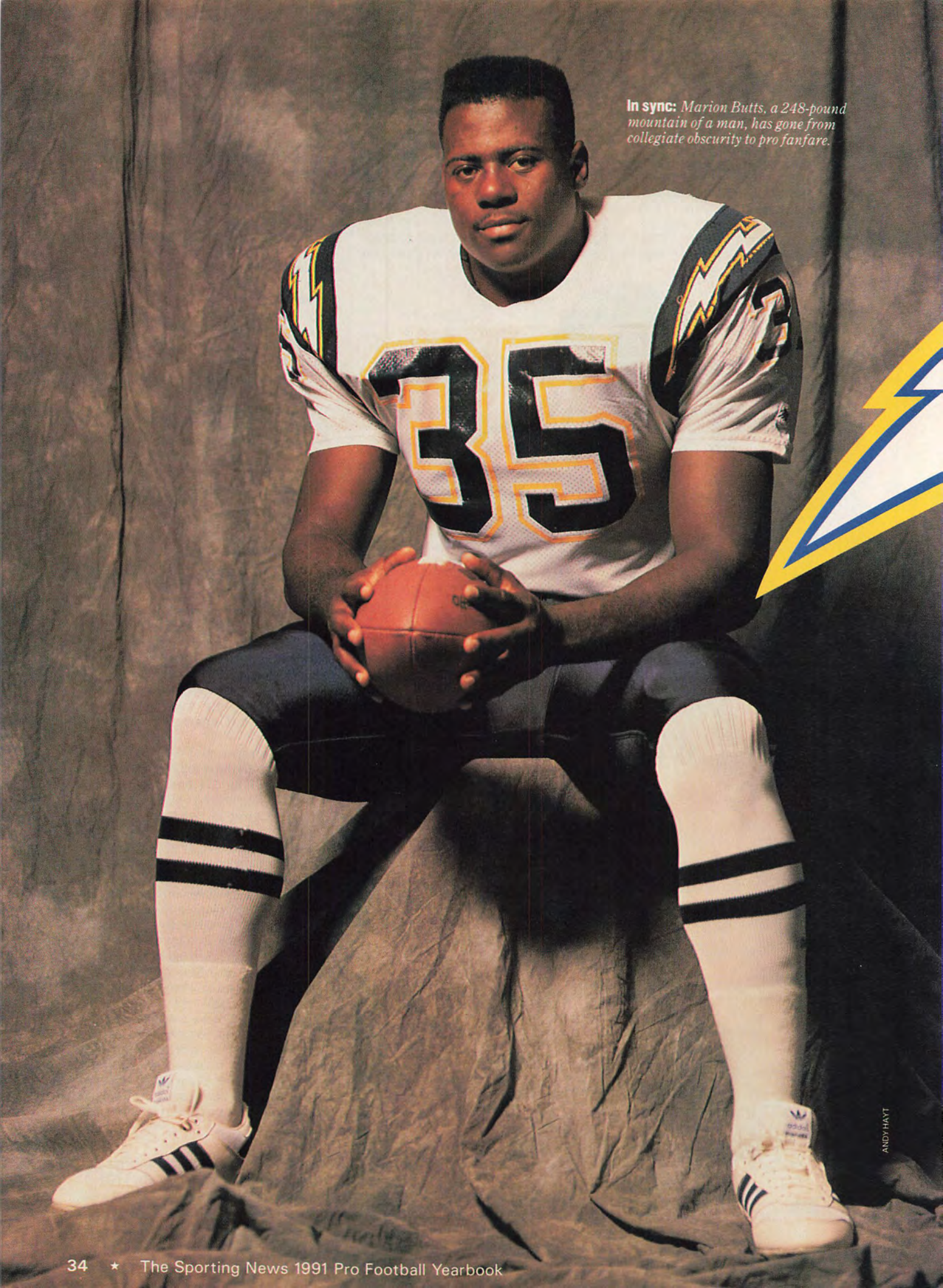
"A player of Jeff's caliber comes along maybe once every 10 years or so, that's it," Irsay said. "Granted, we gave up a lot. But we also gained a guy that will be the cornerstone of this franchise for the next dozen years. Our goal is to someday win a Super Bowl, and Jeff George is a Super Bowl-caliber quarterback. Those guys just don't grow on trees, you know." ■

Principals: The Falcons got not only Rison in the deal that netted the Colts the draft rights to Jeff George (inset), but also lineman Chris Hinton (71).



PAUL JASIEWSKI

TOM DIPACE



In sync: *Marion Butts, a 248-pound mountain of a man, has gone from collegiate obscurity to pro fanfare.*

ANDY HAYT

CHARGING TO STARDOM

*Tacklers cruisin' for bruisin'
when they run headlong into Butts*

By T.J. SIMERS
San Diego Union

For a while, Marion Butts and football just weren't in sync. An injury nearly ended his career in high school and a reserved seat on the bench made him an afterthought in college. It wasn't until he reached the National Football League that everything finally clicked for Butts.

Now it's the defenders trying to stop Butts who are out of sync.

Butts soared to stardom with the San Diego Chargers in 1990, leading the league in rushing most of the season and earning a trip to the Pro Bowl. He ultimately finished third among NFL rushers with 1,225 yards. That's quite an accomplishment for a player who had gained a mere 332 yards on 64 carries in two years at Florida State.

The problem at Florida State wasn't Butts; it was his timing. The Seminoles already boasted an array of talented running backs, and Butts was the odd man out. He has put all of that behind him, although a bit of bad timing still caught him in 1990. He missed the final two games of the season because of a sore foot, costing him an opportunity to pace the NFL in rushing and play in the Pro Bowl.

"My foot cost me the chance to be the Number 1 rusher," a now-healthy Butts said, "but it could have cost me my career if I had gone out there like some sort of fool."

Fans had to pity the fools who tried to tackle the bruising 6-foot-1, 248-pound running back last year. Butts' no-nonsense style conjured up memories of former NFL greats John Riggins and Larry Csonka. He simply puts his head down and runs forward, bumping and grinding his way through the enemy's front line. Amazingly, he never fumbled in 265 carries last season despite being hit more times than a bad guy in an Arnold Schwarzenegger movie. But

don't try to praise Butts for his performance. A pat on the back embarrasses him, but it may be the only thing that slows him down.

"He gives our offense a personality," San Diego Coach Dan Henning said. "You can't intimidate him. He doesn't know what the word is. This guy is the most unaffected, pure and simple football player, with very little, if any, airs about what he is or what he's not. The way Buttsy describes it, it has to come right out of his mother's mouth: 'Don't expect a damn thing, work hard every day and everything will work out.' And it has."

But there was a time when it appeared nothing would work out for Butts. During his junior year in high school, doctors talked about amputating his left leg after he snapped his femur in two. They eventually opted to operate and insert pins, prompting doctors to speculate he might not play football again. He recovered, however, and as a senior earned all-state honors at Worth County High School in Sylvester, Ga.

"A doctor can tell you anything," Butts said. "But he's speculating, and I have faith."

While recovering from his injury as a junior, however, his grades suffered and he never caught up. So, instead of pursuing a football scholarship at Florida State as a freshman in 1985, he enrolled at a junior college, Northeastern Oklahoma A&M. Two years later he transferred to Florida State, where "my life was put on hold for a couple of years," Butts said.

Butts and the Florida State program were never in sync. When he arrived in 1987, the Seminoles were feeding the football to tailbacks Sammie Smith and Dexter Carter. Dayne Williams was taking most of the snaps at fullback and when he needed a breather, Edgar Bennett entered the game.

Butts rarely left the bench. The

Florida State staff let him run the football 35 times for 199 yards and a touchdown while catching four passes for 65 yards as a junior.

Things got so bad that Butts once was moved to linebacker, but the Seminole staff reconsidered after a short trial. By the time he was a senior, Butts was captain of the special-teams unit, but he still was a bench warmer as a fullback, carrying the ball 29 times for 133 yards and three touchdowns.

"That's 29 times in the fourth quarter," Butts said. "There were a lot of games I didn't even smell offense, but when I did, there would be 30 seconds left in the game."

"A lot of times I didn't even get on the field. I went to Coach (Bobby) Bowden and said, 'What do I have to do to start or at least play?' I just wanted to play one quarter. That's all. I said, 'Play me one quarter and then play the others the other three quarters.'"

"He said, 'You'll have your chances,' but I never did. If I played a whole series I'd be blocking. I was a bench warmer."

As Butts has proved in the NFL, he can run the ball. So why didn't the Florida State coaches let him do it more often? Butts has asked himself that same question.

"I'm looking around," he said, "and damn, I'm in perfect shape and I weigh as much as a tight end, have receiver's speed and am stronger than most of our offensive linemen and I can't start."

"It's like, what am I doing wrong? You hear what I'm saying? In practice I'm just killing people. I had to put aggression somewhere, so I was playing like a maniac on special teams. I was throwing my body left and right in anger."

When current Florida State players tell him what the coaches say about his time as a Seminole, he has to laugh. He

Continued

CHARGING TO STARDOM

knows it's marvelous fiction.

"I've gone back and the fellas say I'm a legend there," Butts said. "The coaches tell the guys, 'Oh, when Marion was here he did a helluva job.' So they say, 'Why wasn't he playing?' I hear

they've got a big picture of me running the ball on their wall."

Although he wasn't happy with his Florida State experience, he declines to single out anyone for criticism.

"People come to certain situations and they aren't ready for them," he said. "Coach Bowden is doing a helluva job at FSU, so you can't criticize him. I'm able to put food on the table, so why should I go jeopardize someone else's career and make them look bad for something that happened in the past?"

Only now does Bowden acknowledge his oversight. "I am kind of amazed now at his running ability," Bowden said in an interview with the St. Petersburg Times. "It looks like I underestimated him when he was here."

The Chargers almost underestimated him, too. They went to Tallahassee to test Smith and Victor Floyd when they noticed Butts for the first time. There wasn't enough film of him in action as a fullback, but on special teams he was something special.

"The idea at the time was if we really liked a guy above where he was rated, we needed to make up a film on him," Henning said. "We made one up on Buttsy and also one on Dave Meggett (now a running back for the New York Giants)."

"It's funny. After the draft we talked to the Giants about trading Butts for Meggett. (Giants Coach Bill) Parcells liked Butts and even thought about using him at linebacker, and we liked Meggett."

San Diego fans are grateful no deal was made. The Chargers selected the anonymous back in the seventh round of the 1989 draft with a choice they acquired from New England for linebacker Thomas Benson. San Diego's backfield, however, looked ominously similar to Florida State's—loaded with talent. It featured Gary Anderson, Barry Redden, Timmy Smith, Lionel James, Tim Spencer and Napoleon McCallum, but the Chargers envisioned Butts as a special-teams dynamo. Even so, Butts finally found himself in the right place at the right time.

"I would have been happy to get a lead blocker on our goal-line offense and a big-time special-teams player," Henning said. "But then Anderson doesn't sign, James goes by the boards with an injury and some of the other guys don't work out."

"Every day," added Henning, pounding his fist on his desk, "every damn day, we got the 100 percent same effort from Buttsy on the field. He doesn't shy away from anybody."

Butts had thought San Diego would shy away from him in the draft.

"I had watched the Chargers in the past, and from what I saw they used small backs and passed the ball," Butts said. "I never thought they would draft me, but then (former coach) Al Saunders was gone and Coach Henning came in with his staff. If it's not for Coach Henning, I probably wouldn't be here. I always felt I had the ability, but I never had the opportunity. I got that from Coach Henning."

Butts' first opportunity occurred against the Los Angeles Raiders in his first game as a pro. On their first offensive series of the season, the Chargers faced a third-and-one situation at the 50-yard line. They called for "50 gut"—a handoff to Butts.

"His third play as a rookie he goes 50

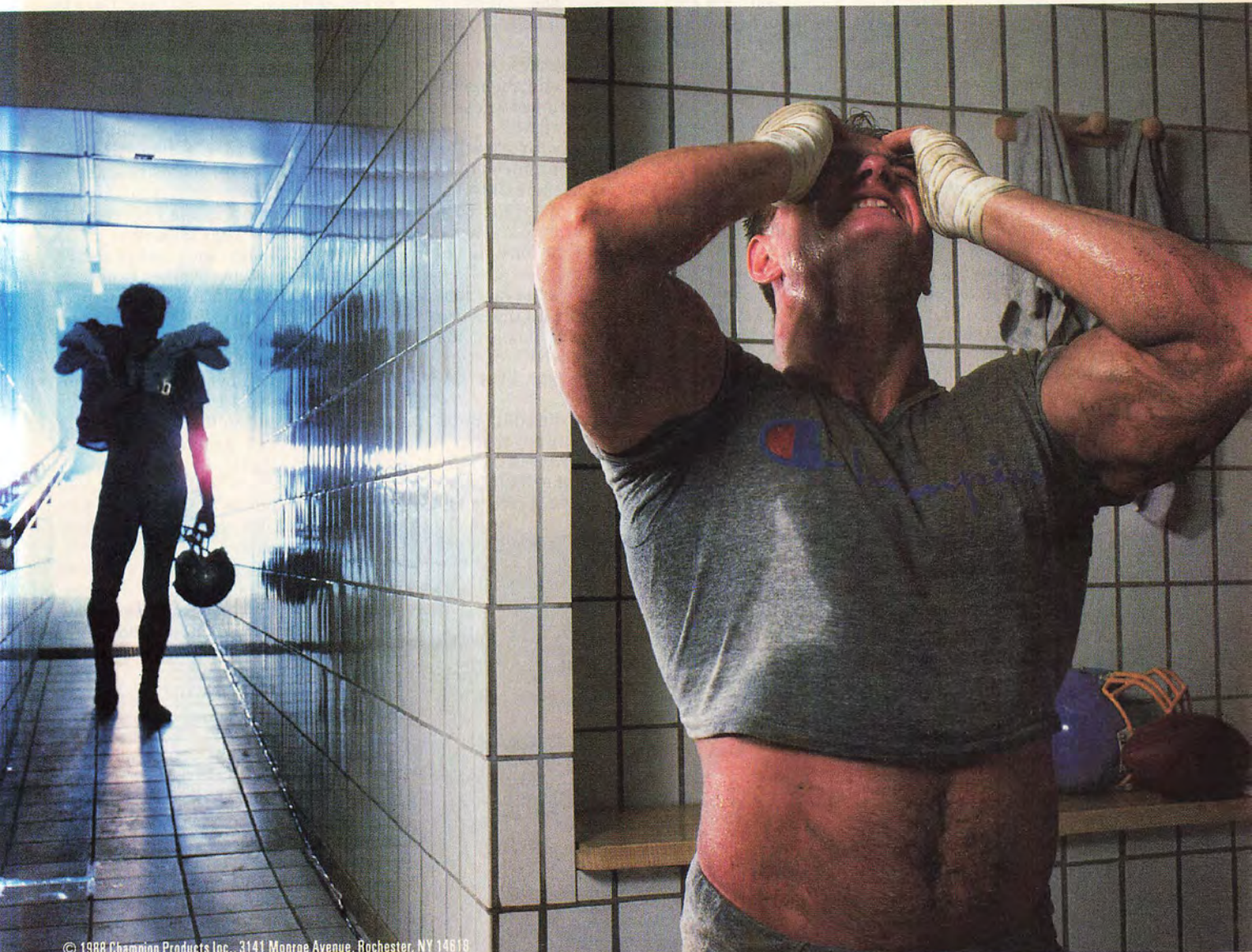


MITCHELL LAYTON

Putting up big numbers now: Running back Marion Butts, who ran the ball sparingly at Florida State, rushed for 1,225 yards as a pro last season.

Continued

We walked down a tunnel, flipped a
coin, then all hell broke loose. Whoever said
it's just a game better take a closer look.



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CHARGING TO STARDOM

yards for a touchdown," Henning marveled, "and looks good doing it." Butts went on to rush 170 times for 683 yards and nine touchdowns as a rookie, making the absence of Anderson less painful.

"He's fortunate because Gary Anderson never showed up," Henning said. "He fell into something here that was out of necessity. It's like that for anybody when preparation meets opportunity, only this guy's got it in spades."

Butts' mother is the source of his preparation and perseverance. His father died when Marion was 12, nine years after his parents had divorced, so his mother raised him.

"My mom was a very strong lady," Butts said, "and she taught me and encouraged me to stay out of trouble. She said I was put on this earth with one objective: To live right."

"I wanted to drop out of Florida State when things weren't going well and she told me to stay and get an education. . . . We had a very close relationship. Even when we were young, she told us, 'Your mother won't be here forever and you'll have to do for yourself.' She

raised us to reach for success."

Mary Jane Butts died of cancer during Butts' rookie year. After going home for her funeral, Butts rejoined the Chargers and ran for 72 yards at Washington. A week later, he dedicated his efforts to her memory and ran for 176 yards at Kansas City. He sent the game ball to his oldest sister.

"You know, that's the one thing—really the only thing—my mom wanted me to be: She wanted me to be successful," he said. "She said she wanted to live to see her kids be able to take care of themselves."

"I'm her baby, the youngest of four children, and she lived long enough to see her son make something of himself. You know, she raised me right."

After a surprisingly productive rookie season, Butts continued to do right last season. He became only the seventh player in team history to rush for more than 1,000 yards in a season and became the team's all-time single-season rushing leader.

Even more incredible is the fact that Butts has carried the ball 284 times in a row without fumbling and has lost the ball only twice in his 435 NFL carries. He hasn't dropped the ball since December 17, 1989.

"They tell me to carry the ball," Butts said, "like I'm carrying my paycheck."

If Butts' paycheck increases the way his popularity has in the San Diego locker room, he should be a rich man.

But even after being voted most valuable player by his teammates last year, Butts doesn't think of himself in glowing terms.

"I don't consider myself an NFL star," he said. "I'm just a player trying to survive, just an average guy trying to do his best."

He also is just what Henning was looking for in his single-back attack. As head coach in Atlanta, Henning had made household names of running backs William Andrews and Gerald Riggs with that offense. He was an assistant in Washington when the Redskins used Riggins in a similar capacity. There's no doubt that Henning's teams enjoy featuring one stud back, and Butts is San Diego's one stud.

"You have to have a flag carrier," Henning said. "Other teams characterize your team by who is running the ball. If they can intimidate your runner, they feel they can shut you down."

"If you run tough, they feel you have a tough team. If your runner is unflappable, they think your team is unflappable. Butts epitomizes all those characteristics which you want. Just give him the ball, and he goes and goes."

When he runs, however, he doesn't always hit the holes. He just runs. Since he's still learning on the run, he prefers to plow through people rather than dance around them.

"Human nature will tell you, you don't want to tackle this guy when he's got a full head of steam," Henning said. "You might not want to even admit it, but subconsciously you'd like to see him run by so you can catch him from behind. That's Butts' real message to everybody: I'm going to stop somewhere, but it isn't going to be any wimp who stops me."

Burt Grossman, San Diego's 6-6, 270-pound defensive end who is anything but a wimp, was asked how he might deal with a charging Butts.

"Me, I'd make that quick athletic move and get out of the way," Grossman said. "Then I'd act like I read the play wrong."

But defensive players aren't the only ones who might encounter the wrath of Butts' bullish style. The Chargers' offensive line, which Butts credits for getting him ahead, must watch its backside.

"You're blocking and you know he's back there and you're pumping your legs as hard as you can to get out of his way," center Courtney Hall said. "When he runs into you, oh man, it's terrible."

While Butts sneaks up on no one on the football field, he has emerged from nowhere as one of the game's dominant backs. If he gains more than 1,000 yards in 1991, he will be the first back in Chargers history to do so in consecutive seasons.

"I never dreamed about rushing for 1,000 yards in the pros," Butts said. "How could I? I just wanted to make the team." ■

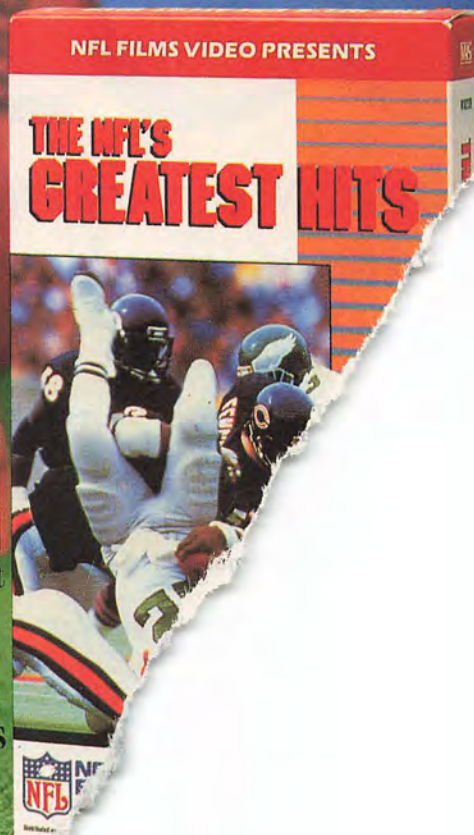
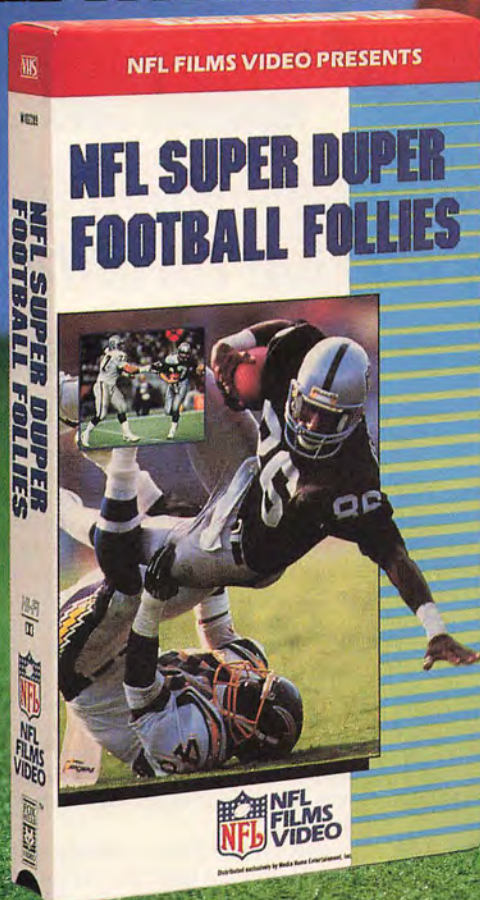


ANDY HAYT

Pile of humanity: It takes more than one Denver Bronco to bring down the San Diego Chargers' pile-driving running back.

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SUDDEN

*Dolphins' opponents are hereby forewarned:
Beware of 'Big Dog' (he's not all that lovable)*

TE

first National Foot-
ball season a year ago,
Webb looked about as
soft as a panda. He
was a law-shucks
behind his
most limp-

up at left offensive tackle for the Miami
Dolphins, he looked like a space-filler
and not much more.

"I have to earn people's respect,"
Webb admitted, "and let them know I'm
not just this big soft guy."

My, how looks can be deceiving. The
6-foot-6, 298-pound Webb earned so
much respect in 1990 that he became
the first rookie offensive tackle ever to
be voted to the Pro Bowl. He
was the first rookie lineman
of any kind to be so honored

since 1983, when Baltimore Colts guard
Chris Hinton got the nod from his NFL
peers and coaches.

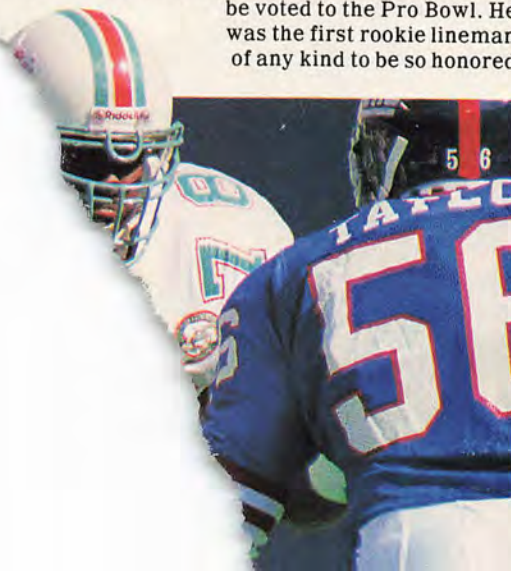
All this from a guy whose lovable dis-
position earned him the moniker "Big
Dog" from his best friend, Dolphins
nose tackle Alfred Oglesby. The prob-
lem is, Miami's Big Dog doesn't bark
much. It takes a court order to get him
to reveal more than his name, rank and
uniform number. Said Miami Coach
Don Shula: "I never heard a murmur
out of him all year other than, 'Yes, sir.
No, sir. What can I do?'"

"Big Dog" works OK as a nickname,
but the one from his college days at
Texas A&M—"Bam Bam"—fits better.
"Bam Bam" is the sound two pass rush-
ers make as they hit the flesh wall that
is Webb.

But the Dolphins discovered another
name that fits their top pick in 1990 (the
draft's ninth overall). It's Webb's mid-
dle name, the kind of middle name that
would embarrass a boy growing up in
Dallas, but one that captures the es-
sence of his sudden impact in Miami:
Jewel.

"He was everything we expected and
hoped for," said Shula.

"A real joy to work with," said vet-
eran assistant head coach/offensive
line coach John Sandusky, whose smile



BOB ROSATO

IMPACT

a misconception that usually lasted, oh, maybe two snaps. Then the surprised opponent discovered that he had a quiet riot on his hands.

"I separate the two sides of me so much that it surprises some people," said the 24-year-old Webb. "As a person, 'big, gentle-giant type' is probably how I come off. I'm easygoing. But I'm a totally different person on the field. I don't mean talking a lot of noise; I mean focus. I know I have something to do. I love to compete. I love a challenge. Challenge after challenge after challenge."

Webb attacks his challenges with prototype offensive tackle size that is powered by strength you'd expect and quickness you might not. Exceptionally long arms fend and frustrate foes. As a run-blocker (his forte as an All-Southwest Conference pick at guard and later tackle), Webb is agile enough to pull and sweep. As a pass-blocker, he is quick and strong enough to have been given the job of guarding quarterback Dan Marino's tender knees from a blind-side attack.

That combination of skills Webb brought to the Dolphins was the biggest reason for the increased offensive balance that helped key Miami's turnaround from four seasons of mediocrity (including an 8-8 record in 1989) to last season's 12-4 regular-season mark. In the process, the Dolphins earned their first playoff berth since 1985 and beat Kansas City in a wild-card game before bowing to Buffalo.

Pre-Webb, Miami's offense featured the league's greatest pass-heavy imbalance, which loaded undue pressure on Marino. The '89 Dolphins averaged only 83.1 rushing yards per game and 3.3 yards per carry. Last year, Webb helped those averages increase to 96 yards per game and 3.7 per carry. The tangible improvement might not seem dramatic, but the intangibles Webb brought to the field were.

"Richmond made his presence known," Marino said. "He helped us have the confidence to stick with the running game."

Continued

Not-so-gentle giant: At 6-foot-6 and 298 pounds, Miami's Webb displays considerably more bite than bark.

TOM DIPACE



IMPACT

Webb was helped on the left side of the line by rookie guard Keith Sims, a second-round pick in 1990. Sims seized an immediate starting job and contributed, too. But he missed a month of the season with a knee injury. Even beyond that, Webb was the clear force.

"I'd see (blocking) holes behind Richmond that were as big as volcanoes," said running back Sammie Smith, who rushed for 831 yards. "Those were the kind of holes I didn't see much of the previous year."

Indeed, Webb cleared many holes for the Miami backs. But he also shut down any pass-rushing holes leading to Marino. For instance, he faced Buffalo sack master Bruce Smith three times. Three times Smith was held sackless.

"I did OK against him," Webb said in his typically modest, subdued fashion. "Me being quiet doesn't mean I'm intimidated. I didn't go into any game thinking he (Smith) or anybody else is invincible. I don't fear."

Webb paused. And then he approached mild braggadocio.

"I go into a game thinking nobody gets a sack against me," he said matter-of-factly, as if describing a technical point on footwork. "A sack ain't supposed to happen. Sack's not in my vocabulary."

Even so, "Richmond Webb" is not in the vocabulary of many football fans—at least not yet. It is the curse of being an offensive lineman. Quarterbacks, running backs, wide receivers, noseguards, linebackers, safeties—they all have statistics that can help quantify their value to a team. Offensive linemen, meanwhile, labor in virtual obscurity. In Webb's case, though, a few numbers reveal his value to the 1990 Dolphins:

- Zero—the number of snaps Webb missed the entire regular season and playoffs. He never came out of a game. Ever. "Unheard of," Sandusky said. "At least I can't remember it happening before."

- Zero—the number of practice days Webb missed because of minor injuries.

- Two—the number of sacks Webb allowed. And when he was beat, he knew why. "He (New England's Garin Veris) took an inside charge, which I cut off, but he came back outside and I tripped," Webb recalled after one sack.

- Four—the number of times Webb

was flagged for a penalty. And only one of those yellow flags was for holding.

Webb's rapid development—and at a position where gradual seasoning is more the norm—is credited to his early signing. He missed no training camp, which helped his development and kept him from experiencing a situation like holdout Mandarich did with Green Bay in 1989 (an analogy Shula often made when citing why Webb enjoyed a successful rookie season and Mandarich did not). "That was the key," Shula said. "Just having him here."

The Dolphins knew they wanted Webb here in Miami all along, "but we had to cross our fingers on draft day," Miami President Tim Robbie recalled.

Tampa Bay and San Diego, both picking ahead of Miami, were the two keys. When Tampa Bay drafted outside linebacker Keith McCants, cheers erupted in Miami's draft camp. The Dolphins knew San Diego would claim outside linebacker Junior Seau, leaving Webb available. Had Tampa Bay drafted Seau, Dolphins officials were certain the Chargers would have selected Webb.

Miami didn't waste time signing Webb to a five-year deal. Richmond became a rich man overnight, but it's the Dolphins who think they got a bargain.

"If Richmond stays healthy,"

Robbie said, "he's going to be a tremendous player and probably a perennial Pro Bowl player for a long, long time."

Dominance into the next century is the way some people envision it. Even sage veterans, the type most apt to be skeptical of the latest phenom, are impressed.

"He looks like he'll have an Art Shell-type career," Dolphins linebacker Mike Reichenbach said midway through Webb's rookie season, "like he'll be an All-Pro for about 10 straight years."

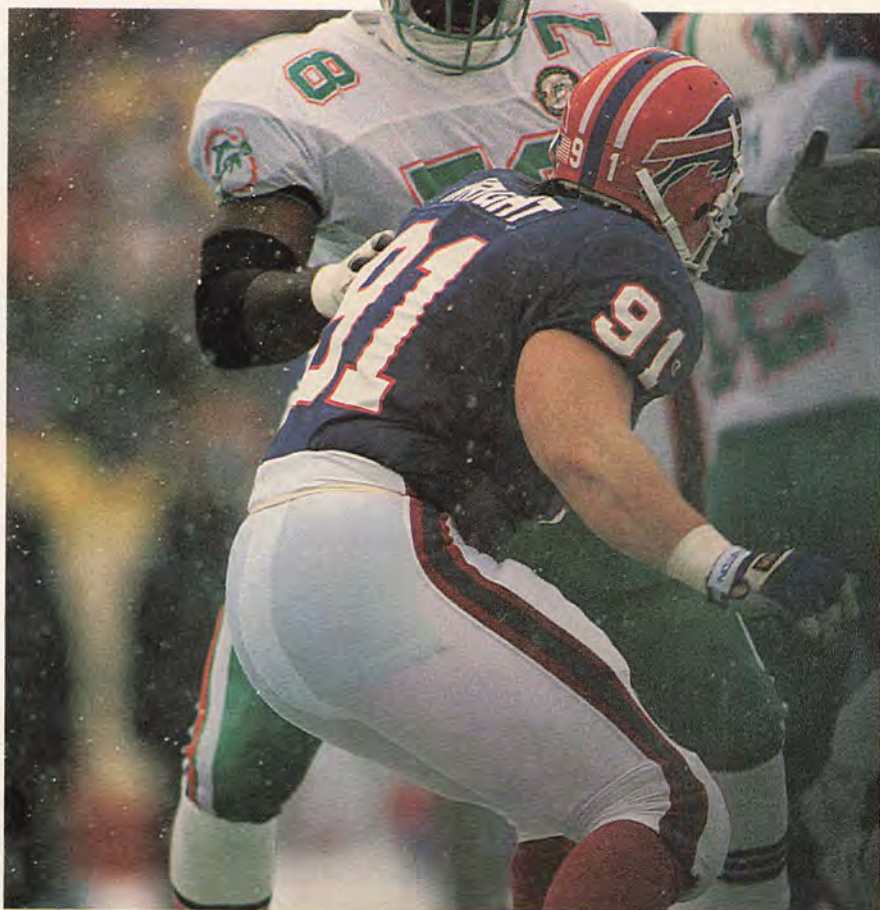
Such predictions may seem preposterously premature to some. Why not send Webb straight to the Hall of Fame? Yet, in Webb's case, there is a genuine consensus that he could be something special.

Buffalo Coach Marv Levy pegged Webb as "the next-generation Anthony Munoz" after Cincinnati's perennial (but aging) Pro Bowl tackle. The comparison gets that aw-shucks smile from Webb.

"That makes me feel good, but, you know, I've only had one year," he said. "I was back at A&M over the winter, and some of the offensive linemen I played with were asking me how it was, how I did it. I don't even know! I just went to work, and it happened. I definitely didn't expect it."

Webb thought back to draft day, when he elicited laughter on a conference call with Miami reporters by characterizing Shula as "a laid-back guy, from what I've heard."

That day, Webb's goals were modest. Miami had an incumbent starting left tackle in Jeff Dellenbach



RICK STEWART/ALLSPORT

Standing tall: Richmond Webb is the first rookie offensive tackle to be voted to the Pro Bowl.

and the right tackle job was earmarked for Mark Dennis. But Dellenbach lost his job to Webb in training camp and was relegated to reserve right tackle/center duty.

"I just wanted to contribute in some way; I never thought I'd be starting right away," Webb said. "I remember hoping I might get the chance to maybe make the all-rookie team, because I knew rookies just didn't make the Pro Bowl. That was a dream for down the road. For all this to happen right away, well. . . ."

When Shula announced Miami's four Pro Bowl honorees to the team, he purposely saved the rookie's name for last.

"He called my name, kind of laughing and smiling, and all the other players went, 'Oooh!,'" Webb recalled. "I couldn't believe it."

Said Shula: "I'll never forget the look of pure joy and honest excitement on his face. That's one of the real pleasures of coaching."

Webb was third in American Football Conference offensive tackle voting behind Munoz and New England's Bruce Armstrong, but Webb started in the Pro Bowl because an injury sidelined Munoz.

After the game in Honolulu, Webb flew straight home to Texas. His season was finished, but his work wasn't. Webb re-enrolled at Texas A&M and took classes toward his degree in industrial distribution.

"The degree is important to me, too, but it's probably most important to my parents," he said.

Richmond Webb Sr. still works on an assembly line near Dallas, inserting plates into car batteries. He also is a deacon at David's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. Webb's mother, Bonnie, is a homemaker. He has a younger brother, James, who will be a senior linebacker at Texas A&M.

"God just really blessed Richmond," his father said, "from childbirth all the way to today."

That his father has not left the assembly line for instant, comfortable retirement tells you most of what you need to know about how money has affected Webb's life. He did, however, treat himself to a forest-green BMW and his mom to a Chrysler Imperial.

"I'm getting ready to buy my mom a new house," he said.

But the money mostly does its work in bonds, quietly, just like Webb. The young man earning the millions remains single and of simple tastes. "I think I'm still the same person," he said.

He's not the same player, though. He's still getting better.

"Toward the end of the season, I began to focus more on the entire game," he said. "I worked on a more balanced stance to hide whether it's run or pass. This off-season I'm working to get my lower back stronger. I definitely plan to be a much better player my second year." ■

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S U P E R

By TIM COWLISHAW
Dallas Morning News

The last time it happened, Democrats wondered if Gary Hart could unseat Ronald Reagan in the White House—and still were able to remember what it had been like when one of their own was the President.

Pro basketball fans wondered if young stars Larry Bird and Magic Johnson would ever meet in the National Basketball Association championship series. New York Mets fans wondered if a 19-year-old kid named Dwight Gooden could lift their club out of last place in the National League East. And New York Giants Coach Bill Parcells, after his first team posted a 3-12-1 record, had to wonder if he'd be around the National Football League much longer.

The last time it happened—the last time an American Football Conference team won the Super Bowl—was January 22, 1984. Jim Plunkett—remember him?—was throwing passes to Cliff Branch. Lester Hayes was swatting away passes in the secondary. And the Raiders' "commitment to excellence" was real, not talk.

But in the seven seasons since the Los Angeles Raiders hammered the Washington Redskins, 38-9, in Super Bowl XVIII, the AFC has drawn a blank. The average score in the last seven Super Bowls has been 37-14, the aggregate score 260-101. Perhaps most embarrassing of all, the AFC—once hailed for wild, wide-open offenses—hasn't scored 21 points in a Super Bowl since that Raider victory.

"I think probably the biggest difference is that the NFC as a whole conference grew strong, whereas in the '70s the AFC had the stronger teams," said Seattle General Manager Tom Flores, who coached the Raiders to their victory over Washington seven years ago.

Flores is at least partially correct. The AFC was clearly the stronger of the two conferences in the '70s, winning eight of the 10 Super Bowls played that decade. (Only the Dallas Cowboys—in 1972 and 1978—could break the AFC's stranglehold.) Perhaps most telling, the NFC didn't win a regular-season series against the AFC from 1972 through 1980.

Flores is mistaken, however, when he says the NFC was clearly the better conference during the 1980s. In Super Bowls, of course, it was. But after beating the AFC by a 28-24 margin during the 1981 regular season, the NFC didn't win another regular season-series until 1989. The NFC has won the last two series and there were three ties, but the argument that the NFC's recent Super



AFC is at a loss (seven of 'em, in

Bowl dominance is derived from its top-to-bottom superiority is weak.

So how does one explain the NFC's seven-year winning streak? Obviously, the greatness of the San Francisco 49ers has much to do with it. The 49ers accounted for three of the NFC's seven Super Bowl wins and have won 25 of 28 regular-season games against AFC teams since 1984. They didn't make it to the Super Bowl last year (they lost, 15-13, to the New York Giants in the NFC championship game), and their absence was largely responsible for the AFC's representative, the Buffalo Bills, actually being favored to win the game. And, had Scott Norwood's 47-yard field-goal attempt with eight seconds left not sailed wide to the right, the Bills would have won. The Giants got the victory instead, 20-19.

Just how unusual is a seven-game losing streak in the world of sports? Well, mathematically speaking, if two teams are absolutely even, the chances of one team winning seven in a row are one in 64. Of course, evenly matched teams in championship games are rare events.

Other sports have had similar streaks, but usually one dominant team was the primary reason. In the NBA, the Eastern Conference champion won 12 straight league titles from 1959 through 1970—but 10 of those championships were won by the Boston Celtics. In baseball, there has been only one seven-year winning streak for either league. From 1947 through 1953, the American League won seven in a row—but the New York Yankees won six of them.

So, what we have seen in recent Super Bowl history is highly unusual. And it's not as if all the games were close. Only Buffalo last year and Cincinnati in 1989 made a game of it. The other five games in the NFC streak were king-size blowouts.

The No. 1 culprit, of course, has been Denver. The Broncos have lost three of the last five Super Bowls by scores of



Happy days: The AFC had plenty to boast about in the mid-to-late 1970s as Pittsburgh, led by the likes of Lynn Swann (right), won four Super Bowls in six years.

39-20, 42-10 and 55-10, and they are responsible for almost half of the AFC's current losing streak. Denver has lost its three games by an average of 32 points. The conference's four other losing teams—Miami, New England, Cincinnati and Buffalo—have lost by an average margin of 16 points.

As a result, the Broncos are better known for their all-time Super Bowl record of 0-4 than their 4-0 record in AFC championship games.

"If it wasn't for Super Bowl losses, people would have tremendous respect for us," Denver Coach Dan Reeves said. "It happened with us in Dallas (where Reeves was a player and assistant

B O W L



fact) to explain title-game blues



RICH PILLING/TSN

Turnabout: Joe Montana and the 49ers have led the NFC's Super Bowl resurgence, contributing three victories to the current seven-game winning streak.

coach) from '66 through '71 until we finally won a world championship. Until that happens (in Denver), nothing we can say or do makes any difference."

Ironically, one of the things that makes Denver so good during the regular season—at least before last year—makes it vulnerable in the Super Bowl. From 1983 through 1989, the Broncos were 45-11 in regular-season games played at Mile High Stadium, a winning percentage no other team—including the 49ers—could match. And the Broncos' ability to win at home earned them the home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs in two (1987 and 1989) of their three Super Bowl seasons.

But when the Broncos had to leave the friendly confines of Mile High Stadium to play the Super Bowl game itself—first in Pasadena, Calif., then in San Diego and New Orleans—that advantage was gone. The Broncos, who were never a very good road team even in their three Super Bowl seasons (12-10-1 overall), were like a fish out of water outside Colorado. Of course, the fact that they were physically much smaller than their opponents—especially along the offensive and defensive lines—didn't help their cause, either.

Some people have suggested that a difference in styles has made the NFC a superior conference, but proof of that is hard to find. Pro football simply is not like major league baseball, where the differences between the American and National leagues are more easily defined. Can anyone make the case that the 49ers and Giants, who have won five of the last seven Super Bowls, have similar styles?

"I think there's only a difference in styles in individual teams," Kansas City Chiefs Owner Lamar Hunt said. "Certainly, the Giants have a distinctive style, very strong and physical and run-oriented. But our team is more like the Giants' style than what might be perceived as an AFC finesse-type style."

"It's not a conference thing," said Bill Belichick, the Giants' defensive coordinator last season who has since moved on to become the head coach at Cleveland. "The Giants are different from Washington, and Washington's different from Philadelphia. I don't think you can generalize across conference lines."

"If you look at (the Giants') two Super Bowls, obviously Buffalo was real competitive. We played them during the regular season and they won (17-13) at our place. In the '86 Super Bowl, Denver was ahead of us at the half (10-9). We played them in the regular season that year, too, and we beat them in the last five seconds or something (19-16 on a field goal with six seconds left). I think there's really pretty

good competitive balance between the two conferences."

For long-suffering AFC fans, there are at least four reasons to believe that the NFC's grip on the Vince Lombardi Trophy may be near its end:

- There is little statistical difference between the two conferences. In 1990, both averaged 4.1 yards per rush and differed only slightly in yards per pass (AFC 6.0, NFC 5.9). The top five NFC teams (San Francisco, New York, Chicago, Philadelphia and Washington) won 58 regular-season games, while the AFC's top five (Buffalo, Los Angeles, Miami, Kansas City and Cincinnati) won 57. There is balance at the top and balance in the stats.

- Beginning last January, the Super Bowl now is played just one week after the conference championship games. Many people believe the reason last year's Giants-Bills Super Bowl was so close and well played was because the NFL cut its usual two-week hiatus after the conference title games to one week. Too often, one team (the AFC representative in recent years) had come out flat for the Super Bowl after having its routine of playing one game each week disrupted. That won't be a factor (or an excuse) any longer.

- Former 49ers stars Ronnie Lott and Roger Craig have joined the AFC Raiders. It's anyone's guess how much either player will help Los Angeles, but it does symbolize that the best team of the last decade—San Francisco—is in the process of being redefined, if not rebuilt. Joe Montana is the only remaining 49er from the team's first Super Bowl victory in 1982.

- The AFC is at least the NFC's match in emerging young stars. The 11 starters on last season's AFC Pro Bowl defense had 57 years of NFL experience; the NFC starters had 80. Either Chiefs linebacker Derrick Thomas or Bills defensive end Bruce Smith is likely to replace the Giants' Lawrence Taylor as the game's next dominant defensive player.

On offense, two of the top three passers in the NFC last year—the Giants' Phil Simms and the 49ers' Montana—began their NFL careers in 1979. While Randall Cunningham, Troy Aikman and Jim Everett should emerge as the NFC's best in the next few years, Jim Kelly, Dan Marino, John Elway and Boomer Esiason all should have many good years left. The Colts' Jeff George is a likely future star.

"I think the '90s are going to be exciting," Flores said. "I think the conferences will be pretty even."

Flores hopes so. Perhaps by then some other AFC coach will know what it's like to win a Super Bowl. ■

By VITO STELLINO
Baltimore Morning Sun

The No. 2 quarterback on most National Football League teams used to be a guy who stood on the sideline, held a clipboard and wore a visor. Charting plays was about as close as most NFL backup quarterbacks ever got to playing.

Guys like Cliff Stoudt, for instance. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, Stoudt was Terry Bradshaw's backup in Pittsburgh. In his first three seasons he got a couple of Super Bowl rings—and never got his uniform dirty. By the time he took his first NFL snap, he already was vested in the league's pension plan.

He went on to spend 11 seasons in the NFL, rarely leaving the bench. His existence was not unlike that of many clipboard caddies throughout the league.

Those days, it seems, are over. The Cliff Stoudts of the NFL are a dying breed because, as events in the 1990 season made all too clear, backup quarterback now is one of the most important jobs in football.

"He's the second-most important player on the team," said Ernie Accorsi, the Cleveland Browns' executive vice president for football operations.

The most important player, of course, is the No. 1 quarterback. But with starting quarterbacks being knocked out of games at an ever-increasing rate—nine were felled in a two-week span late last season—the importance of the backup has become more critical than ever.

Just ask the New York Giants and the Buffalo Bills.

The Giants were hosting the Bills last December 15 when each team's starting quarterback—New York's Phil Simms and Buffalo's Jim Kelly—was injured. Simms suffered a broken bone in his right foot and was sidelined for the rest of the season. Kelly sprained his left knee and could not play again until the Bills' first playoff game four weeks later.

On January 27, the Giants and the Bills squared off in Super Bowl XXV. Obviously, neither team missed a beat with its starting quarterback out of the lineup. And lo and behold, it was New York's backup who led the Giants to a 20-19 triumph over the Bills (and their starting quarterback) for the NFL championship.

The hero for the Giants was Jeff Hostetler, who took

Continued

CLIPBOARD CADDIES



Jeff Hostetler,
New York Giants

*Backup QBs,
once relegated
to 'observing,'
now are cast
in vital roles*



Frank Reich,
Buffalo Bills

RANKING THE TEAMS' BACKUP QUARTERBACKS

1. NEW YORK GIANTS

Starting QB Phil Simms
Backup QB(s) Jeff Hostetler

Analysis: The Giants are the only team in the league with two quarterbacks who have proven they can win the Super Bowl. The only problem: Putting one on the bench.

2. BUFFALO BILLS

Starting QB Jim Kelly
Backup QB(s) Frank Reich

Analysis: Reich has proved that he can keep the Bills winning after Kelly is injured. He also doesn't complain about his No. 2 status, making him the ideal backup.

3. SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

Starting QB Joe Montana
Backup QB(s) Steve Young

Analysis: Young could start for a lot of teams, but he sits behind the NFL's best quarterback in Montana.

4. TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Starting QB Vinny Testaverde
Backup QB(s) Chris Chandler

Analysis: Chandler, a starter in Indianapolis before he joined the Bucs, has the tools to be one again. Tampa Bay gave up a No. 1 draft pick for him last year.

5. PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Starting QB Randall Cunningham
Backup QB(s) Jim McMahon

Analysis: Although he's on the back nine of his career, McMahon, a former starter in Chicago, still knows how to play the position.

6. DENVER BRONCOS

Starting QB John Elway
Backup QB(s) Gary Kubiak

Analysis: Kubiak, whose health is a question mark after off-season surgery to repair a ruptured disk in his back, has proved that he can handle the job when Elway is out.

7. INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

Starting QB Jeff George
Backup QB(s) Jack Trudeau

Analysis: When Trudeau is healthy, he can be an effective starter. His problem: He's not healthy very often.

8. GREEN BAY PACKERS

Starting QB Don Majkowski
Backup QB(s) Anthony Dilweg, Mike Tomczak

Analysis: Tomczak, a former Bears starter, signed with the Packers as a Plan B free agent and will battle Dilweg for a backup spot. Dilweg also has starting experience.

9. LOS ANGELES RAMS

Starting QB Jim Everett
Backup QB(s) Chuck Long, Mike Pagel

Analysis: Long threw only five passes last year but might blossom in offensive coordinator Ernie Zampese's pass-happy system. Pagel is a journeyman.

10. WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Starting QB Mark Rypien
Backup QB(s) Stan Humphries

Analysis: Both Rypien and Humphries probably are best suited for backup roles. Neither has proved he can be a first-rate starter.

11. HOUSTON OILERS

Starting QB Warren Moon
Backup QB(s) Cody Carlson

Analysis: The jury is still out on Carlson, who got the Oilers into the playoffs last year after Moon was injured. Once he got there, however, he flopped.

12. NEW YORK JETS

Starting QB Ken O'Brien
Backup QB(s) Troy Taylor, Turk Schonert, Browning Nagle

Analysis: Taylor is the odds-on favorite to be the backup, while Nagle and Schonert should duel for the No. 3 job.

13. MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Starting QB Wade Wilson
Backup QB(s) Rich Gannon

Analysis: Wilson and Gannon will fight for the starting job in '91, and the loser will be the backup. Neither player is the Vikings' answer over the long haul.

14. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

Starting QB Steve Walsh
Backup QB(s) Bobby Hebert, John Fourcade, Mike Buck

Analysis: Fourcade proved last season he's not an NFL starter, and with Bobby Hebert back after his one-year sabbatical, he could lose the No. 3 job to Mike Buck.

15. MIAMI DOLPHINS

Starting QB Dan Marino
Backup QB(s) Scott Secules, Scott Mitchell

Analysis: Marino never misses a game, so the Dolphins' backups are never tested. Secules threw just seven passes last year; Mitchell, a rookie, threw none.

16. CINCINNATI BENGALS

Starting QB Boomer Esiason
Backup QB(s) Erik Wilhelm

Analysis: Esiason plays even when he's hurt, so Wilhelm, who attempted just 19 passes last year, hasn't gotten much of a chance.

17. SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

Starting QB Dave Krieg
Backup QB(s) Kelly Stouffer, Jeff Kemp, Dan McGwire

Analysis: Since Krieg took every snap last year, Stouffer didn't get an opportunity to show his stuff. Kemp is a journeyman. McGwire, a rookie, is probably the No. 2 man.

18. LOS ANGELES RAIDERS

Starting QB Jay Schroeder
Backup QB(s) Vince Evans, Steve Beuerlein, Todd Marinovich

Analysis: Beuerlein probably is on the way out, Evans is at the end of the line and Marinovich, a 22-year-old rookie, has a chance to be the backup.

19. PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Starting QB Bobby Brister
Backup QB(s) Neil O'Donnell

Analysis: O'Donnell didn't take a snap as a 1990 rookie, but the Steelers like his potential.

20. CLEVELAND BROWNS

Starting QB Bernie Kosar
Backup QB(s) Todd Philcox, Jeff Francis

Analysis: Once the Browns decided that veteran Mike Pagel was not the answer, they elected to give two youngsters, Philcox and Francis, a shot at the No. 2 job this year.

21. KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

Starting QB Steve DeBerg
Backup QB(s) Steve Pelluer, Mike Elkins, Mark Vlasic

Analysis: The Chiefs, who are not sold on Pelluer and think third-year man Elkins is not ready, signed Vlasic from Plan B. All three will compete for the backup job.

22. PHOENIX CARDINALS

Starting QB Timm Rosenbach
Backup QB(s) Tom Tupa

Analysis: Tupa didn't take a snap last year and didn't show much promise when he did play in 1989. Rosenbach, a former No. 1 draft pick, must stay healthy.

23. CHICAGO BEARS

Starting QB Jim Harbaugh
Backup QB(s) Peter Tom Willis

Analysis: The Bears let veteran Mike Tomczak go because they liked Willis' potential, but he threw only 13 passes as a rookie last year. The jury's still out.

24. DETROIT LIONS

Starting QB Rodney Peete
Backup QB(s) Andre Ware

Analysis: Ware threw only 30 passes in his rookie season, and the former Heisman Trophy winner made it clear he wasn't happy sitting on the bench.

25. ATLANTA FALCONS

Starting QB Chris Miller
Backup QB(s) Gilbert Renfro, Brett Favre

Analysis: Renfro, a former CFL player, has yet to throw a pass in an NFL regular-season game. Favre, a touted rookie, may beat him out for the backup job.

26. SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

Starting QB Billy Joe Tolliver
Backup QB(s) John Friesz, Bob Gagliano

Analysis: The Chargers started Friesz in their '90 finale and were so unimpressed that they signed Gagliano in Plan B. Tolliver isn't too secure as the starter, either.

27. DALLAS COWBOYS

Starting QB Troy Aikman
Backup QB(s) Babe Laufenberg, Cliff Stoudt, Bill Musgrave

Analysis: Laufenberg is no better than a third-stringer. The shopworn Stoudt is a stopgap at best. Musgrave, a rookie, is the Cowboys' second-best quarterback.

28. NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Starting QB Tom Hodson
Backup QB(s) Hugh Millen, Scott Zolak

Analysis: The Patriots have the most untested group of quarterbacks in the league. Millen isn't the answer, and Hodson and Zolak are unknowns.

CLIPBOARD CADDIES

over for Simms and became the first backup quarterback ever to start a Super Bowl and lead his team to victory. Hostetler's performance bettered that of Earl Morrall, who had replaced an injured Johnny Unitas late in the second quarter of Super Bowl V and directed the Baltimore Colts to a 16-13 win over Dallas. (Doug Williams guided the Washington Redskins to a 42-10 victory over Denver in Super Bowl XXII after starting only two regular-season games in 1987, but it was difficult to think of Williams as a backup because he had been a starter his whole career in Tampa Bay and in the United States Football League before joining the Redskins in 1986.) All other quarterbacks who have led their teams to Super Bowl titles were established starters.

Hostetler, on the other hand, had started just two games in six seasons with the Giants prior to 1990 and did not throw his first NFL pass until 1988. But the Giants, who took Hostetler in the third round of the 1984 draft, liked his potential enough to keep him around. Hostetler eventually passed former backup Jeff Rutledge on the Giants' depth chart, paving the way for his elevation to the top spot after Simms was injured. He went 5-0 as a starter, including all three of the Giants' postseason games.

While Hostetler was guiding the Giants to the playoffs, Frank Reich was doing the same for the Bills. Reich guided the Bills to a 17-13 victory over the Giants in December after Kelly went down and then passed for 234 yards and two touchdowns in a 24-14 victory over Miami the following week. That victory clinched the Bills' third straight AFC Eastern Division title. Though Kelly returned for the playoffs, it was his backup who played a critical role in helping the Bills secure the home-field advantage in the American Football Conference playoffs.

Not all backup quarterbacks, however, have been as successful as Hostetler and Reich. And it proves just how vulnerable a team can become when it tries to get by with a subpar sub.

A case in point: the Dallas Cowboys, who last year were on the verge of pulling off one of the most amazing one-year turnarounds in pro football history when they traveled to Philadelphia for their next-to-last game of the season. The Cowboys, who were a dismal 1-15 in 1989, had a record of 7-7 and needed just one more win to clinch a playoff berth.

They didn't get it. Starting quarterback Troy Aikman suffered a dislocated right shoulder in the first period against the Eagles, and Aikman's season was over. For all intents and purposes, so was the Cowboys'. His replacement, Babe Laufenberg, was intercepted six times by the Eagles and



JON SOOHO/BERNSTEIN ASSOC.



JIM TURNER



RICH PILLING/TSN

At the ready: Denver's Gary Kubiak (top), Houston's Cody Carlson (center) and San Francisco's Steve Young are prepared to take over in the event an injury fells the No. 1 quarterback.

Atlanta Falcons in Dallas' final two games, both Cowboy losses. Laufenberg, who has bounced around the NFL the last eight years with five teams, simply wasn't up to the task when his number was called.

"I don't wonder what if; I know what if," Dallas Coach Jimmy Johnson said when asked about his team's fate had Aikman not been injured. "If Troy Aikman is healthy, we win both of those games. There's no doubt in my mind on that."

The Cowboys weren't the only team foiled by an injury to their starting quarterback late last season. Houston's Warren Moon dislocated the thumb on his throwing hand in the Oilers' 40-20 loss at Cincinnati in week 16. His backup, Cody Carlson, passed for three touchdowns in a 34-14 victory over Pittsburgh the following week to help the Oilers nail down an AFC playoff berth. Carlson returned to earth a week later, though, with a poor performance in a 41-14 playoff loss at Cincinnati.

With more and more starting quarterbacks missing time due to injury, it's now the rule—rather than the exception—that backups will be summoned more often in the future.

Timm Rosenbach of Phoenix and Dave Krieg of Seattle were alone among NFL quarterbacks last year, each taking all of his team's snaps from scrimmage. Nine other quarterbacks played virtually every down for their teams in 1990: Miami's Dan Marino, Philadelphia's Randall Cunningham, the Rams' Jim Everett, the Raiders' Jay Schroeder, Kansas City's Steve DeBerg, Cincinnati's Boomer Esiason, Pittsburgh's Bubba Brister, Denver's John Elway and the Jets' Ken O'Brien.

Most teams envy the Giants, Bills and San Francisco 49ers, who call on Steve Young whenever Joe Montana can't play. Those three teams have proven backups.

In Denver, Gary Kubiak has been an effective replacement for John Elway since 1983. The Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Indianapolis Colts use former starting quarterbacks Chris Chandler and Jack Trudeau, respectively, as their No. 2 guys. Chandler struggled last year, however, when he subbed on occasion for Vinny Testaverde after the Bucs gave Indianapolis a first-round draft pick to get him.

On page 47 is a ranking of the 28 NFL teams according to the strength of their backup quarterback situation. (Some teams have more than one backup listed.) Accordingly, teams with outstanding starters and poor and/or untested backups are ranked below those with good starters and good backups. No mathematical formula was used to devise the ranking and, of course, opinions vary. But one thing is certain: Having a good backup quarterback is vital for all teams—especially those with playoff aspirations—and those who lack one eventually will face the consequences. ■

Scouting the AFC

The Buffalo Bills are hungry for another trip to the Super Bowl

By JEFF SCHUDEL
News-Herald

Even as the Buffalo Bills' championship hopes faded to black like Scott Norwood's missed field goal in Super Bowl XXV, it was evident that the Bills were the American Football Conference's most worthy representative. Nothing happened in the off-season to alter that view.

The Bills, the most balanced and explosive team in the conference, should roll to their fourth straight AFC East title.

Cincinnati is the best of a competitive Central Division, and Kansas City's defense should carry the Chiefs in the West, but neither team has the firepower of the Bills.

With a strong line in front of Jim Kelly and weapons like Andre Reed and Thurman Thomas, the Bills are capable of leading the league in scoring again. Bruce Smith and Cornelius Bennett are the world tag-team champions of defense.

The only things that can destroy the Bills are the Bills themselves, as they did in 1989. But hunger has replaced turmoil in Buffalo after the Bills lost the Super Bowl, 20-19, to the New York Giants. That hunger may be enough for the Bills to bring the AFC its first Super Bowl triumph in eight years.

PRO BOWL PICKS

Quarterback: Jim Kelly, Bills. Kelly has established himself as the top gun in the National Football League.

Running backs: Thomas, Bills, and Bobby Humphrey, Broncos. Defenders can't tackle what they can't grab.

Wide receivers: Reed, Bills, and Ernest Givins, Oilers. These receivers cash in their frequent-flier yards in the end zone.

Tight end: Rodney Holman, Bengals. Tight ends who can block well and catch well are almost like dinosaurs—extinct. But Holman thrives.

Center: Don Mosebar, Raiders. The Raiders are big and bad again, and Mosebar is the biggest and baddest on the line.

Offensive guards: Bruce Matthews, Oilers, and Mike Munchak, Oilers. With these guys leading the way, Houston will shoot for the moon.

Offensive tackles: Bruce Armstrong, Patriots, and Richmond Webb, Dolphins. Armstrong has no one to block for, but he's one of the best. Webb has made the Dolphins a contender again.

Nose tackle: Michael Dean Perry, Browns. Now The Fridge, William



On target: Jim Kelly is the NFL's top gun.

Perry, is being compared to his little brother.

Defensive ends: Bruce Smith, Bills, and Jeff Cross, Dolphins. The scary thing is Smith, 28, might just be entering his prime. Cross proves the Dolphins can do more than play offense.

Outside linebackers: Derrick Thomas, Chiefs, and Bennett, Bills. Thomas buries quarterbacks. Bennett buries running backs.

Inside linebackers: Shane Conlan, Bills, and John Offerdahl, Dolphins. There's no room to run inside with Conlan and Offerdahl on patrol.

Cornerbacks: Albert Lewis, Chiefs, and Rod Woodson, Steelers. Lewis makes receivers think they have two shadows. Woodson has the speed to recover from rare mistakes.

Safeties: David Fulcher, Bengals, and Steve Atwater, Broncos. Fulcher and Atwater are Operation Desert Storm in shoulder pads.

Place-kicker: Nick Lowery, Chiefs. Before it's all said and done, Lowery may kick his way into the Hall of Fame.

Punter: Mike Horan, Broncos. The air doesn't have to be thin for Horan to boot the ball high and long.

AWARD WINNERS

Offensive Player of the Year: Kelly, Bills. Kelly is poised to take the Bills two points farther this year.

Defensive Player of the Year: Thomas, Chiefs. There is no more dominant defensive player in the AFC.

Rookie of the Year: Harvey Williams, Chiefs. Williams is in the perfect place: He's playing for a Super Bowl contender with a coach who likes to run the football.

Comeback Player of the Year: Tim Worley, Steelers. The Steelers wanted to dump Worley after a poor sophomore year. This year they'll want to crown him.

Coach of the Year: Dan Reeves, Broncos. It's hard to keep a good man and his team down. ■

TSN's PREDICTIONS

Based on a poll of The Sporting News' regular AFC correspondents.

AFC EAST

1. **Buffalo:** The Bills are poised to win the Super Bowl.
2. **Miami:** The Dolphins could make a big splash with a balanced offense.
3. **Indianapolis:** Jeff George still needs a better supporting cast.
4. **N.Y. Jets:** The honeymoon is over for Bruce Coslet.
5. **New England:** There will be little new about New England's performance.

AFC CENTRAL

1. **Cincinnati:** The Bengals need to put some bite in their defense.
2. **Houston:** Time is running out on the aging Oilers.
3. **Pittsburgh:** Bubby Brister's best might not be good enough.
4. **Cleveland:** Bill Belichick steers the Browns on the road back to respectability.

AFC WEST

1. **Kansas City:** Another miracle is needed from ultimate warrior Steve DeBerg.
2. **L.A. Raiders:** A championship can't be bought through Plan B free agency.
3. **Denver:** A healthy Bronco squad could make some noise.
4. **San Diego:** If Dan Henning doesn't charge up San Diego, he could lose his job.
5. **Seattle:** Without a top-notch quarterback, it will be a long season in Seattle.

AFC CHAMPION: BUFFALO

Confident, mature Buffalo gets top billing in AFC

By MILT NORTHROP
Buffalo News

The tears had hardly dried after Buffalo's heartbreaking 20-19 loss to the New York Giants in Super Bowl XXV, and already Bills Coach Marv Levy was talking about muscling up for the 1991 season.

"We will look to get physically stronger on our defense," Levy said after his team was victimized by the Giants' "power football" tactics.

On draft day, however, it appeared as if the Bills had a short memory. Except for second-round draft pick Phil Hansen, a defensive end from North Dakota State, they opted for speedy players.

Regardless, the Bills enter 1991 more confident, mature and focused. Most of their best players are just approaching their prime years.

In addition, the Bills have added talent and speed at wide receiver and in the secondary. And if free agent end Reggie Rogers makes a dramatic comeback from his personal problems, which include a prison term for vehicular homicide, Buffalo might have the best defensive line depth in the league.

So, even if the Bills aren't physically stronger than a year ago, opponents won't take them lightly. After all, Buffalo stands among the National Football League's elite with a 34-14 record over the last three regular seasons, and it came within one errant field goal of winning the Super Bowl. The Bills cer-



Tallying the votes: Linebacker Darryl Talley is perhaps the Bills' most inspirational player and the one who is most respected by his teammates.

tainly enter 1991 as the team to beat in the American Football Conference.

COACHING

Levy administers a stable, mature coaching staff and works well with General Manager Bill Polian and the scouting staff in assembling talent.

The longer he coaches, the more the 63-year-old Levy sounds like the late George Allen. Levy has become almost as obsessed with avoiding outside distractions as Allen. The Bills' dealings

with the media have become among the most restrictive in the league. Now they have good reason for all the paranoia because everybody in the AFC will be gunning for them.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—Jim Kelly enjoyed a wondrous season in 1990, when his quarterback rating of 101.2 led the league. He completed a career-high 63.3 percent of his passes and threw a career-low nine interceptions.

His success can't be fully attributed to the no-huddle, shotgun offense that Buffalo used extensively in seven of its last eight games. Kelly was almost as effective under center in more conventional setups. He almost certainly would have surpassed his career standard of 25 touchdown passes set in 1989 if he had not been injured and missed the final two regular-season games. But with a backup like Frank Reich, the Bills have no worries should Kelly sustain an injury in 1991.

How good is Reich? Well, the Bills are 4-1 in games he has started over the last two seasons, with Reich completing more than 60 percent of his passes for eight TDs and just one interception.

RUNNING BACKS—Thurman Thomas may be the best running back in the NFL. Last year he rushed for 1,297 yards, tops in the AFC. He also caught 49 passes for 532 yards, giving him a league-leading 1,829 yards from scrimmage and making him the NFL leader in all-purpose yards for the second straight year.

When the Bills use a fullback, Jamie Mueller gives them a willing blocker who has improved his receiving. He also lends an eager hand to special teams. Carwell Gardner was nicked by injuries most of his rookie year, but he has the potential to add some wallop to

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: This is the most balanced team in the AFC. Buffalo led the league in scoring, totaling more than 400 points for the second straight year, and a strong defense may get better.

Weaknesses: Not many. The Bills appeared to lack depth at receiver and in both lines and the secondary, but they filled the holes through free agency and the draft. In addition, solid players are emerging from the reserve ranks. Buffalo's punting and kicking are shaky, but those problems can be overcome by outstanding coverage units.

Keys to success: The Bills have all the talent they need, but they must maintain the focused attitude and mental toughness they displayed in 1990 and become more physical on defense.

Sure sign of trouble: A season-opening loss at home to Miami would crush the Bills' home mystique and could have them chasing the Dolphins.

That's a fact: The Bills have led the NFL in kickoff coverage the last four years.

Coach Marv Levy says: "We took two or three steps forward in 1990, and we look forward to continuing that."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Lofton	Beebe	Tasker
LT	Wolford	Parker	
LG	Ritcher	Frerotte	
C	Hull	Burton	Lingner
RG	J. Davis	Burton	
RT	Ballard	Parker	
TE	McKeller	Metzelaars	Rolle
WR	Reed	Edwards	Turner
QB	Kelly	Reich	Gilbert
RB	Thomas	K. Davis	Fuller
FB	Mueller	Gardner	

DEFENSE

LE	Seals	Rogers	Pike
NT	Wright	Haggins	
RE	B. Smith	Hansen	Lodish
LOLB	Bennett	Patton	
LILB	Conlan	Bavaro	Maddox
RILB	Bentley	Bailey	Collins
ROLB	Talley	Garner	
LCB	Jackson	Williams	Pool
RCB	Odomes	Hicks	Wren
SS	L. Smith	Drane	Smiley
FS	Kelso	Jones	Wilbourn

SPECIALISTS

K	Norwood		
P	Tuten	Kalal	
KR	Fuller	Beebe	Lamb
PR	Edwards	Hamilton	

the Buffalo offense.

The Bills lost Don Smith, who played slotback in the shotgun as well as on short-yardage and goal-line situations, to Plan B free agency. But the Bills believe they can replace him with Eddie Fuller.

RECEIVERS—Andre Reed continues to rewrite the receiving section of the Bills' record book. He nabbed 71 passes for 945 yards and eight TDs in 1990, and he might attain a 90- or 100-catch season if he can capitalize on all the receiving speed the Bills now have.

James Lofton, 35, brought maturity, poise, intelligence, wit and class to a team that needed a role model with those characteristics. He comes off a season in which he averaged 20.3 yards per catch.

Don Beebe will try to return after breaking two bones above his ankle late last season. It was the last chapter of an injury-plagued season for the speedster, who was just beginning to make a steady contribution. Steve Tasker, a special-teams Pro Bowler, is a valuable reserve.

In his fourth season, Keith McKeller finally polished his athletic talents and became Buffalo's starting tight end. Former starter Pete Metzelaars is still valuable as a blocker. Butch Rolle, whose last eight catches going back to 1987 have all been for touchdowns, plays in short-yardage formations.

LINEMEN—Turmoil caused by injuries and holdouts rocked the line in training camp last year, but everything settled down once the season started.

The big news came from an unlikely source—John Davis. Leonard Burton was the heir apparent to the retired Joe Devlin at right guard, but he got hurt. Davis, a 1989 Plan B signee, stepped in and never let go.

Once considered a first-round flop early in his career, former Outland Trophy winner Jim Ritcher has developed into a steady guard entering his 12th season. Ritcher considered it a vote of confidence when Levy chose to protect him from Plan B this year.

Left tackle Will Wolford ended up playing in the Pro Bowl after a slow start caused by a preseason holdout and some nagging injuries. Howard (House) Ballard, a 315-pound tackle, continues to improve and move closer to Pro Bowl stature. Center Kent Hull has become a Pro Bowl fixture.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—End Bruce Smith will wreck any offense that does not give him special treatment. The self-proclaimed "best defensive player in the NFL," Smith recorded a team-record 19 sacks last season. He should enjoy another prime year in '91.

Leon Seals became the starter at left end last year and usually gave a solid effort every week. Rogers will push Seals for playing time and will likely play in passing situations. Hansen is an

1991 BUFFALO BILLS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL Exp.	College	How acq.	'90 Games GP/GS
Gilbert, Gale	6-3/210	12-20-61	5	California	FA/89	1/0
Kelly, Jim	6-3/218	2-14-60	6	Miami (Fla.)	D1b/83	14/14
Reich, Frank	6-4/210	12-4-61	7	Maryland	D3a/85	16/2
RUNNING BACKS						
Davis, Kenneth	5-10/209	4-10-62	6	Texas Christian	PlanB/89	16/0
Fuller, Eddie (KR)	5-9/199	6-22-68	1	Louisiana State	D4/90	IR
Gardner, Carwell (FB)	6-2/235	11-27-66	2	Louisville	D2/90	7/0
Mueller, Jamie (FB)	6-1/224	10-4-64	5	Benedictine (Kan.)	D3b/87	16/8
Paterra, Greg (FB)	5-11/220	5-11-67	3	Slippery Rock (Pa.)	FA/91	0/0
Rasul, Amir	5-11/190	7-3-69	R	Florida A&M	D7/91	—
Thomas, Thurman	5-10/198	5-16-66	4	Oklahoma State	D2/88	16/16
RECEIVERS						
Beebe, Don (KR)	5-11/177	12-18-64	3	Chadron (Neb.) State	D3/89	12/4
Clark, Steve (TE)	6-6/244	11-28-67	R	Texas	D12/91	—
Edwards, Al (PR)	5-8/168	5-18-67	2	Northwestern (La.) State	D11/90	14/2
Glover, Deval	5-11/184	9-12-66	1	Syracuse	FA/90	0/0
Hamilton, Millard (PR)	5-10/185	12-30-67	R	Clark (Ga.)	D6/91	—
Lamb, Brad (KR)	5-10/171	10-7-67	R	Anderson (Ind.)	D8/91	—
Lofton, James	6-3/190	7-5-56	14	Stanford	FA/89	16/14
Manuel, Lionel	5-11/180	4-13-62	8	Pacific	FA/91	*14/0
McKeller, Keith (TE)	6-4/245	7-9-64	4	Jacksonville (Ala.) State	D9/87	16/14
Metzelaars, Pete (TE)	6-7/250	5-24-60	10	Wabash (Ind.)	T-Sea/85	16/4
Reed, Andre	6-1/190	1-29-64	7	Kutztown (Pa.)	D4a/85	16/16
Rolle, Butch (TE)	6-3/245	8-19-64	6	Michigan State	D7c/86	16/0
Tasker, Steve (KR)	5-9/185	4-10-62	7	Northwestern	W-Hou/86	16/0
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Ballard, Howard (T)	6-6/315	11-3-63	4	Alabama A&M	D11/87	16/16
Burton, Leonard (C/G)	6-3/277	6-18-64	6	South Carolina	D3/86	IR
Davis, John (G)	6-4/310	8-22-65	5	Georgia Tech	PlanB/89	16/15
DeLorenzo, Tony (G)	6-3/285	11-8-67	R	New Mexico State	D10/91	—
Frerotte, Mitch (G)	6-3/280	3-30-65	3	Penn State	FA/88	16/0
Hull, Kent (C)	6-5/275	1-13-61	6	Mississippi State	FA/86	16/16
Kirkland, Dean (G)	6-2/290	1-4-68	R	Washington	D11/91	—
Lingner, Adam (C)	6-4/268	11-2-60	9	Illinois	FA/89	16/0
Parker, Glenn (T)	6-5/304	4-22-66	2	Arizona	D3/90	16/3
Ritcher, Jim (G)	6-3/273	5-21-58	12	North Carolina State	D1/80	16/16
Wolford, Will (T)	6-5/290	5-18-64	6	Vanderbilt	D1b/86	14/14
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Baldinger, Gary (NT)	6-3/270	10-4-63	5	Wake Forest	FA/90	+10/0
Hansen, Phil (E)	6-5/271	5-20-68	R	North Dakota State	D2/91	—
Lodish, Mike (E)	6-3/260	8-11-67	2	UCLA	D10/90	12/0
Pike, Mark (E)	6-4/272	12-27-63	5	Georgia Tech	D7b/86	16/0
Rogers, Reggie (E)	6-6/280	1-21-64	3	Washington	FA/91	0/0
Seals, Leon (E)	6-5/270	1-30-64	5	Jackson State	D4b/87	16/16
Smith, Bruce (E)	6-4/275	6-18-63	7	Virginia Tech	D1a/85	16/16
Wright, Jeff (NT)	6-2/270	6-13-63	4	Central Missouri State	D8b/88	16/16
LINEBACKERS						
Bailey, Carlton	6-2/237	12-15-64	4	North Carolina	D9/88	16/6
Bavaro, David	6-0/235	3-27-67	2	Syracuse	PlanB/91	*14/0
Bennett, Cornelius	6-2/235	8-25-66	5	Alabama	T-Ind/87	16/16
Bentley, Ray	6-2/235	11-25-60	6	Central Michigan	FA/86	16/9
Collins, Brent	6-2/235	4-27-68	1	Carson-Newman (Tenn.)	D7b/90	0/0
Conlan, Shane	6-3/235	4-3-64	5	Penn State	D1/87	16/16
Garner, Hal	6-4/235	1-18-62	4	Utah State	D3b/85	10/0
Maddox, Mark	6-1/220	3-23-68	R	Northern Michigan	D9/91	—
Monger, Matt	6-1/235	11-15-61	6	Oklahoma State	FA/89	4/0
Patton, Marvycus	6-2/223	5-1-67	2	UCLA	D8/90	16/0
Talley, Darryl	6-4/235	7-10-60	9	West Virginia	D2/83	16/16
DEFENSIVE BACKS						
Drane, Dwight (S)	6-2/205	5-6-62	6	Oklahoma	SupD1/84	12/0
Hale, Chris (CB)	5-7/161	1-4-66	3	Southern California	D7b/89	8/0
Hicks, Cliff (CB)	5-10/188	8-18-64	5	Oregon	FA/90	+5/0
Jackson, Kirby (CB)	5-10/180	2-2-65	6	Mississippi State	FA/87	12/11
Jones, Henry (S)	6-0/197	12-29-67	R	Illinois	D1/91	—
Kelso, Mark (S)	5-11/185	7-23-63	6	William & Mary	FA/86	6/5
Odomes, Nate (CB)	5-10/188	8-25-65	5	Wisconsin	D2a/87	16/16
Pool, David (CB)	5-9/188	12-20-66	2	Carson-Newman (Tenn.)	FA/90	9/1
Smiley, Tim (S)	6-0/190	5-11-66	1	Arkansas State	FA/90	0/0
Smith, Leonard (S)	5-11/202	9-2-60	9	McNeese State	T-Pho/88	16/16
Taylor, Brian (CB)	5-10/195	10-1-67	3	Oregon State	FA/91	0/0
Tucker, Brett (S)	5-11/195	9-6-67	1	Northern Illinois	PlanB/91	0/0
Wilbourn, Shawn (S)	6-3/205	7-22-67	R	Long Beach State	D5/91	—
Williams, James (CB)	5-10/175	3-30-67	2	Fresno State	D1/90	16/5
Wren, Darryl	6-0/186	1-25-67	R	Pittsburg (Kan.) State	D3/91	—
Young, Brett (S)	5-10/195	6-3-67	1	Oregon	SupD8/89	0/0
SPECIALISTS						
Norwood, Scott (K)	6-0/207	7-17-60	7	James Madison	FA/85	16/0
Tuten, Rick (P)	6-2/218	1-5-65	3	Florida State	PlanB/90	14/0
OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP						
Tom Bill, QB; Keith Chapman, K; Chris Dugan, K; Odell Haggins, NT; Craig Hendrickson, T; Tim Kalal, P; Joe Staysniak, T; Vernon Turner, WR.						

*Not with Bills in 1990.

+Includes totals with both Bills and another NFL team in 1990.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

Continued

COACHES

Head coach: Marv Levy.
Assistant coaches:
 Tom Bresnahan (offensive line).
 Walt Corey (defensive coordinator).
 Bruce DeHaven (special teams).
 Chuck Dickerson (defensive line).
 Rusty Jones (strength and conditioning).
 Don Lawrence (offensive quality control/tight ends).
 Chuck Lester (defensive quality control/assistant to head coach).
 Ted Marchibroda (offensive coordinator).
 Nick Nicolau (receivers).
 Elijah Pitts (running backs).
 Dick Roach (defensive backs).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1990 regular-season record: 13-3 (1st in AFC East); 7-1 in division; 10-2 in conference; 8-0 at home; 5-3 on road.

1990 playoff record: Defeated Dolphins, 44-34, in AFC divisional playoff game; defeated Raiders, 51-3, in AFC championship game; lost to Giants, 20-19, in Super Bowl.

Levy's regular-season record: 43-27 in five seasons with Bills; 74-69 overall in 10 NFL seasons with Bills and Chiefs.

Levy's postseason record: 3-3 in three playoffs with Bills (0-1 in Super Bowl).

Team record last five years: 45-34 (.570, ranks 7th in league in that span).

1990 team rankings:	AFC	NFL
Total offense.....	2	6
Rushing offense.....	4	7
Passing offense.....	5	10
Scoring offense.....	1	1
Total defense.....	5	8
Rushing defense.....	7	15
Passing defense.....	4	7
Scoring defense.....	4	6
Takeaways.....	3	T
Giveaways.....	2	3
Turnover differential.....	2	4
Sacks.....	5	9
Sacks allowed.....	4	6

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

Stadium (capacity): Rich Stadium (80,290).
Ticket information: 716-649-0015.
Flagship radio station: WGR, 550 AM; WGR, 96.9 FM.
Training site: Fredonia State University, Fredonia, N.Y.; 716-648-1800.

1991 SCHEDULE

Sept. 1—	MIAMI	4:00
Sept. 8—	PITTSBURGH	1:00
Sept. 15—	at N.Y. Jets	4:00
Sept. 22—	at Tampa Bay	4:00
Sept. 29—	CHICAGO	1:00
Oct. 7—	at Kansas City (Mon.)	8:00
Oct. 13—	INDIANAPOLIS	1:00
Oct. 21—	CINCINNATI (Mon.)	9:00
Oct. 27—	Open date	
Nov. 3—	NEW ENGLAND	1:00
Nov. 10—	Green Bay at Milwaukee	12:00
Nov. 18—	at Miami (Mon.)	9:00
Nov. 24—	at New England	1:00
Dec. 1—	N.Y. JETS	1:00
Dec. 8—	at L.A. Raiders	1:00
Dec. 15—	at Indianapolis	8:00
Dec. 22—	DETROIT	1:00

All times local. All games Sunday unless noted.

1990 RESULTS

Sept. 9—	INDIANAPOLIS	26-10
Sept. 16—	at Miami	7-30
Sept. 24—	at N.Y. Jets	30-7
Sept. 30—	DENVER	29-28
Oct. 7—	L.A. RAIDERS	38-24
Oct. 14—	Open date	
Oct. 21—	N.Y. JETS	30-27
Oct. 28—	at New England	27-10
Nov. 4—	at Cleveland	42-0
Nov. 11—	PHOENIX	45-14
Nov. 18—	NEW ENGLAND	14-0
Nov. 26—	at Houston	24-27
Dec. 2—	PHILADELPHIA	30-23
Dec. 9—	at Indianapolis	31-7
Dec. 15—	at N.Y. Giants	17-13
Dec. 23—	MIAMI	24-14
Dec. 30—	at Washington	14-29

1990 LEADERS

Scoring (kicking): Scott Norwood, 110 pts. (50/52 PATs, 20/29 FGs).
Scoring (touchdowns): Thurman Thomas, 78 pts. (11 rushing, 2 receiving).
Passing: Jim Kelly, 2,829 yds. (346 att., 219 comp., 63.3%, 24 TDs, 9 int.).
Rushing: Thurman Thomas, 1,297 yds. (271 att., 4.8 avg., 11 TDs).
Receptions: Andre Reed, 71 (945 yds., 8 TDs).
Interceptions: Kirby Jackson, 3 (16 yds., 0 TDs).
Tackles: Darryl Talley, 123 (79 solo, 44 assisted).
Sacks: Bruce Smith, 19.
Punting: Rick Tuten, 39.8 avg. (53 punts, 0 blocked).
Punt returns: Al Edwards, 6.6 avg. (14 att.).
Kickoff returns: Don Smith, 20.1 avg. (32 att.).

1990 FANTASY STATISTICS

Statistics included for current members of 1991 roster only.

Name	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING				Defensive TDs	Total TDs
	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	18-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs		
Beebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Bennett	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1#	1
K. Davis	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Gilbert	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Kelly	9	11	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
Lofton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
McKeller	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Metzelaars	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Mueller	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Norwood	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	6	-	50	-	-
Odomes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1
Reed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Reich	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Rolle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
L. Smith	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1
Talley	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1
Tasker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Thomas	-	-	-	-	7	3	1	5	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
Williams	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1†	1

* fumble recovery. * interception. † blocked punt. # blocked field goal.

athletic end and a good hand-fighter.

Buffalo fans like to bemoan nose tackle Jeff Wright's supposed lack of size, but he has 13 sacks in three seasons as a part-time starter. Still, there is concern about Wright wearing down, so Buffalo signed free agent Odell Haggins.

LINEBACKERS—Three of Buffalo's four starting linebackers—Cornelius Bennett, Shane Conlan and Darryl Talley—played in the most recent Pro Bowl, and the fourth, Ray Bentley, played tough, intelligent football all year.

Actually, there is a fifth starter. Carlton Bailey, a college nose tackle who never played linebacker until he got to Buffalo, split duties with Bentley much of last season and is regarded highly by the Bills.

Talley probably had the best year of the linebackers. He is perhaps the team's most inspirational player and the one who is most respected by his teammates.

Bennett registered only four sacks last year, but he's still a distracting force. Conlan was strong against the run the last half of the season.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—The Bills don't figure to be caught short of defensive backs who can cover man-to-man. They drafted two speedsters, Henry Jones and Darryl Wren, among their first three picks in the college draft. The Bills believe that the multi-receiver sets and run-and-shoot-type offenses in vogue require swift defenders who can cover inside receivers.

Cornerback James Williams started five games when Kirby Jackson was injured and also saw action as a nickel back. Jackson lacks Williams' speed but is smart and consistent and has an explosive first step. Still, Williams looks ready to start full time. Veteran Nate Odomes figures to start at the other corner.

Buffalo is solid at safety, featuring holdovers Leonard Smith, Dwight Drane and Mark Kelso. Newcomers Jones, Tim Smiley and Shawn Wilbourn will push for playing time.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Scott Norwood's botched game-winning field goal in the Super Bowl isn't as disconcerting as his inconsistency during the regular season. His 69 percent success ratio ranked last among AFC kickers last season, leaving Norwood on shaky ground.

Rick Tuten did an adequate punting job. He probably will punt again unless rookie free agent Tim Kalal beats him out in camp.

The Bills' return game was sound but unspectacular in 1990. Buffalo had the third-best kickoff-return average in the AFC but was average on punt runbacks. Fuller figures to be the top kickoff returner, while Al Edwards will run back punts.



By George, the Colts have visions of the playoffs

By TOM RIETMANN
Indianapolis News

Basketball idolatry is popular in Indiana, so Indianapolis Colts Coach Ron Meyer knew he'd turn some heads when he compared his young quarterback, Jeff George, to one of the state's most worshiped hoop heroes.

"I think of Larry Bird," Meyer said. "Jeff George has the same awareness on the football field that Bird does on the basketball floor. Sure, George makes some mistakes, but so do quarterbacks who have been in the league 10, 12 years."

Make no mistake: George had better be good in 1991. In fact, he had better perform with Bird-like precision. The Colts, with essentially the same personnel that conspired in a 7-9 record last year, have dumped their playoff hopes squarely in the lap of their second-year quarterback.

Indianapolis, which had the league's 27th-ranked offense, will try to assist George with a restructured line, a liberalized audible system and a playbook thickened with new X's and O's for running back Eric Dickerson. But the burden still will rest with George because the Colts didn't strengthen his supporting cast through either Plan B acquisitions or the draft.

George did show promise last year, passing for 1,553 yards, 14 touchdowns and only seven interceptions in leading



Getting a grip on things: The Colts need defensive end Jon Hand, who struggled last year, to regain his 1989 form.

the Colts to a 5-3 record in the second half of the season. He wound up as only the eighth rookie starter since 1961 to throw more TDs than interceptions (16 to 13).

"That's the way I always imagined myself playing," said George, who raised eyebrows with a spring prediction that the Colts "should be unstoppable" in 1991. "(But) there's always room for improvement. I'm feeling more like a veteran now, and hopefully I can make the right calls."

Indianapolis is counting on it.

COACHING

Meyer, rumored to be fired during much of the 1990 season, signed a contract extension with a guaranteed salary through '92. The vote of confidence from Owner Robert Irsay had as much to do with Meyer's appeal in the community as it did his coaching.

But Meyer's staff underwent a shake-up, and the onus falls on Leon Burnett and Bill Muir to improve a listless offense and running game. Burnett, partly on the strength of his close relationship with both George and Dickerson, was elevated from running backs coach to offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach. Muir moved from defensive coordinator to assistant head coach and offensive line coach.

Rick Venturi inherits Muir's defensive coordinator post and will continue to coach the linebackers. If Meyer allows it, Venturi will likely implement a more aggressive, gambling style.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—George erased any doubts about his passing ability as a rookie but showed he still needs work sensing and escaping pressure. He suffered a sack for every nine pass attempts.

Backup Jack Trudeau is coming off his second major knee operation in three seasons. But before suffering his season-ending injury in late October, Trudeau proved his value by taking over for an injured George and halting a three-game losing streak with upset victories over Kansas City and Philadelphia early in the season.

The battle for the third-string job, pitting Mark Herrmann against Rusty Hilger, will grow in importance if Trudeau isn't fully recovered.

RUNNING BACKS—Dickerson is rich,

AT A GLANCE

Strengths:

Quarterback Jeff George is a year older, wiser and stronger, so he'll get the nod to make more on-field decisions. If Eric Dickerson responds to his new role as a receiver out of the backfield, he'll find more room to operate. Clearly, special teams remain the team's strongest sector.

Weaknesses: Age is taking its toll in the trenches, and the Colts lack depth in both lines and at linebacker. A few key injuries or holdouts will mean major headaches. If the pass rush doesn't improve, it could be a long year for the defense.

Keys to success: Better blocking and an improved running game will give George needed support.

Sure sign of trouble: The Colts, with a composite 6-20 record during the first month of seven seasons in Indianapolis, can ill afford another September swoon.

That's a fact: Dickerson, reputed to have slippery fingers, finished 1990 without a fumble in 166 rushing attempts and 18 receptions.

Coach Ron Meyer says: "We didn't do enough offensively last year. Jeff George is maturing, which is a big key. We hope to do some things with him, and with some other players, so our offense can protect our defense more."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Hester	Simmons
LT	Call	Moss
LG	Tomberlin	Conlin
C	Donaldson	Conlin
RG	Dixon	Baldinger
RT	Schultz	Baldinger
TE	Beach	Cash
WR	Brooks	Verdin
QB	George	Trudeau
RB	Dickerson	A. Johnson
HB	Bentley	A. Johnson

DEFENSE

LE	Thompson	Clancy
NT	Armstrong	Siragusa
RE	Hand	Clancy
LOLB	Banks	Walker
LILB	Herrod	Radecic
RILB	Figaro	Radecic
ROLB	Bickett	McDonald
LCB	Goode	Grant
RCB	Daniel	Holloway
SS	Taylor	McCloughan
FS	Prior	Streeter

SPECIALISTS

K	Biasucci
P	Stark
KR	Bentley
PR	Verdin

Continued

COACHES

Head coach: Ron Meyer.

Assistant coaches:

Leon Burtnett (offensive coordinator/quarterbacks).

George Catavolos (secondary).

Sylvester Crooms (running backs).

Steve Furness (defensive line).

Milt Jackson (wide receivers).

Bill Muir (assistant head coach/offensive line).

Brad Seely (special teams/tight ends).

Rick Venturi (defensive coordinator/linebackers).

Tom Zupancic (strength and conditioning).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1990 regular-season record: 7-9 (3rd in AFC East); 3-5 in division; 5-7 in conference; 3-5 at home; 4-4 on road.

1990 playoff record: None.

Meyer's regular-season record: 36-30 in five seasons with Colts; 54-45 overall in eight NFL seasons with Colts and Patriots.

Meyer's postseason record: 0-1 in one playoff with Colts; 0-2 overall in two playoffs with Colts and Patriots.

Team record last five years: 36-43 (.456, ranks 19th in league in that span).

1990 team rankings:	AFC	NFL
Total offense.....	14	27
Rushing offense.....	13	27
Passing offense.....	8	16
Scoring offense.....	12	21
Total defense.....	13	26
Rushing defense.....	13	24
Passing defense.....	12	23
Scoring defense.....	11	20
Takeaways.....	12	26
Giveaways.....	6	12
Turnover differential.....	T 12	T 24
Sacks.....	13	26
Sacks allowed.....	13	25

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

Stadium (capacity): Hoosier Dome (60,127).

Ticket information: 317-297-7000.

Flagship radio station: WIBC, 1070 AM.

Training site: Anderson University, Anderson, Ind.; 317-297-2658.

1991 SCHEDULE

Sept. 1	—NEW ENGLAND	3:00
Sept. 8	—at Miami	1:00
Sept. 15	—at L.A. Raiders	1:00
Sept. 22	—DETROIT	12:00
Sept. 29	—at Seattle	1:00
Oct. 6	—PITTSBURGH	7:00
Oct. 13	—at Buffalo	1:00
Oct. 20	—N.Y. JETS	12:00
Oct. 27	—Open date	
Nov. 3	—MIAMI	4:00
Nov. 10	—at N.Y. Jets	1:00
Nov. 17	—CHICAGO	1:00
Nov. 24	—Green Bay at Milwaukee	12:00
Dec. 1	—CLEVELAND	1:00
Dec. 8	—at New England	1:00
Dec. 15	—BUFFALO	8:00
Dec. 22	—at Tampa Bay	1:00

All times local.

All games Sunday.

1990 RESULTS

Sept. 9	—at Buffalo	10-26
Sept. 16	—NEW ENGLAND	14-16
Sept. 23	—at Houston	10-24
Sept. 30	—at Philadelphia	24-23
Oct. 7	—KANSAS CITY	23-19
Oct. 14	—Open date	
Oct. 21	—DENVER	17-27
Oct. 28	—MIAMI	7-27
Nov. 5	—N.Y. GIANTS	7-24
Nov. 11	—at New England	13-10
Nov. 18	—N.Y. JETS	17-14
Nov. 25	—at Cincinnati	34-20
Dec. 2	—at Phoenix	17-20
Dec. 9	—BUFFALO	7-31
Dec. 16	—at N.Y. Jets	29-21
Dec. 22	—WASHINGTON	35-28
Dec. 30	—at Miami	17-23

1990 LEADERS

Scoring (kicking): Dean Biasucci, 83 pts. (32/33 PATs, 17/24 FGs).

Scoring (touchdowns): Albert Bentley, 36 pts. (4 rushing, 2 receiving); Jessie Hester, 36 pts. (6 receiving).

Passing: Jeff George, 2,152 yds. (334 att., 181 comp., 54.2%, 16 TDs, 13 int.).

Rushing: Eric Dickerson, 677 yds. (166 att., 4.1 avg., 4 TDs).

Receptions: Albert Bentley, 71 (664 yds., 9.4 avg., 2 TDs).

Interceptions: Mike Prior, 3 (66 yds., 0 TDs).

Tackles: Jeff Herrod, 155 (95 solo, 60 assisted).

Sacks: Sam Clancy, 7.5 (57 yds.).

Punting: Rohn Stark, 43.4 avg. (71 punts, 3,084 yds., 1 blocked).

Punt returns: Clarence Verdin, 12.8 avg. (31 att., 396 yds., 0 TDs).

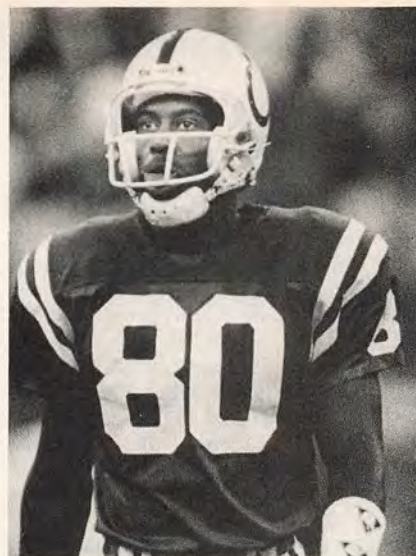
Kickoff returns: Stacey Simmons, 18.3 avg. (19 att., 348 yds., 0 TDs).

1990 FANTASY STATISTICS

Statistics included for current members of 1991 roster only.

Name	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING				Defensive TDs	Total TDs
	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	18-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs		
Beach	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Bentley	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	6
Biasucci	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	15	2	32	—	—
Brooks	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Dickerson	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
George	5	7	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17
Goode	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1*	1
Grant	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1*	1
Hester	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	6
A. Johnson	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Morgan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Trudeau	5	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Verdin	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

* fumble recovery. * interception.



Mr. Consistency: Bill Brooks has averaged a franchise-leading 59 catches per season during his five-year career.

happy and lean, all of which should lead to improvement on last year's suspension-marred, career-low output of 677 yards rushing. Owning an \$11 million contract extension, he reported to spring mini-camp in his finest condition ever. Unlike last year, the Colts have vowed that Dickerson will no longer be a spectator in passing situations.

Albert Bentley, who led the team with 71 catches, will continue to be the main receiving threat out of the backfield.

Second-year pro Anthony Johnson is the backup at both running back positions. Rookie Howard Griffith is the leading contender for the fourth roster spot, which involves short-yardage blocking.

RECEIVERS—After failing to get a wide receiver early in the draft, the Colts again will rely on Bill Brooks, who has averaged a franchise-leading 59 catches per season during his five-year career. The Colts also will try to elicit another big year from Jessie Hester, who returned from the football scrap heap with 54 receptions last year.

The aging Stanley Morgan will have to impress the Colts in camp to stick around, so it's hoped that Clarence Verdin and Stacey Simmons will step forward.

A battle looms at tight end. Rookie Kerry Cash will have a chance to start if he learns to block. Veterans Pat Beach and Orson Mobley lack speed but possess the dimensions needed for the Colts' running game.

LINEMEN—Indianapolis will try to solve its line woes by putting old faces in new places. Center Ray Donaldson, who hasn't missed a start in more than 10 seasons, will be the only player returning to his same position.

Kevin Call, a four-year starter at right tackle, has been switched to left tackle. Call replaces the 338-pound Zefross Moss, who had trouble coping

with the quicker right defensive ends. William Schultz inherits Call's right-tackle spot.

Pat Tomberlin played right guard and Randy Dixon left guard last year, but they will trade places in 1991 to take advantage of Dixon's righthandedness. Versatile Brian Baldinger, Chris Conlin and Moss lead a thin reserve unit.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—Fans have to wonder if the Colts can sack groceries any better than quarterbacks after last season's effort. Indianapolis registered just 29 sacks, the third-lowest total in the league. To make matters worse, ends Donnell Thompson and Sam Clancy and nose tackle Harvey Armstrong could join the cast of television's "thirty-something." That's why the team used its first draft pick in 1991 on end Shane Curry. A lack of depth may force Curry into the lineup immediately, despite his lack of bulk.

End Jon Hand, who signed a big contract in '90, is still the critical piece. He appeared on the verge of a breakthrough in 1989 but struggled in 1990 after returning from an extensive contract holdout.

LINEBACKERS—Like the offensive and defensive lines, this is one more area where the Colts lack depth.

Indianapolis returns competent starters with Jeff Herrod inside and Chip Banks and Duane Bickett outside. The most pressing question centers on who will start next to Herrod. The inside position was left vacant when Freddie Young retired with a hip ailment. Young, whom the Colts acquired from Seattle for two first-round draft choices, played less than three full seasons in Indianapolis. Plan B signee Cedric Figaro and Scott Radevic are the favorites to fill the void.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—Once again, the Colts' secondary will follow the lead of free safety Mike Prior, who signed as a strike player in 1987. But none of Prior's counterparts—cornerbacks Eugene Daniel and Chris Goode and strong safety Keith Taylor—were overly impressive last year, when the Colts' pass defense ranked 23rd in the league.

Should any of the front-runners falter, versatile rookie Dave McCloughan will step in. It's hoped that McCloughan will bolster the team's meager total of nine interceptions registered last year.

SPECIAL TEAMS

If all facets of the Indianapolis club were as strong as special teams, the Colts would have no worries. Rohn Stark, who averaged 43.4 yards per punt, and Verdin, who led the league by averaging 12.8 yards per punt return, were the Colts' only representatives last year at the Pro Bowl. Place-kicker Dean Biasucci was off slightly last year, hitting 17 of 24 field-goal attempts, but management continues to stand by him.



1991 INDIANAPOLIS COLTS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL Exp.	College	How acq.	'90 Games GP/BS
George, Jeff	6-4/221	12-8-67	2	Illinois	D1/90	13/12
Herrmann, Mark	6-4/220	1-8-59	10	Purdue	W-Ram/90	3/0
Hilger, Rusty	6-4/209	5-9-62	6	Oklahoma State	FA/90	0/0
Trudeau, Jack	6-3/219	9-9-62	6	Illinois	D2/86	6/4
RUNNING BACKS						
Bentley, Albert (KR)	5-11/217	8-15-60	7	Miami (Fla.)	SupD2/84	16/15
Dickerson, Eric	6-3/224	9-2-60	9	Southern Methodist	T-Ram/87	11/8
Griffith, Howard	6-0/226	11-17-67	R	Illinois	D9/91	—
Howard, William	6-1/250	6-2-64	3	Tennessee	FA/91	0/0
Johnson, Anthony (FB)	6-0/222	10-25-67	2	Notre Dame	D2/90	16/0
RECEIVERS						
Beach, Pat (TE)	6-4/249	12-28-59	9	Washington State	D6/82	16/11
Bradley, James	6-0/193	11-24-68	R	Michigan State	D7/91	—
Brooks, Bill	6-0/189	4-6-64	6	Boston University	D4/86	16/16
Bruton, Tim (TE)	6-3/252	6-14-67	R	Missouri	D8/91	—
Cash, Kerry (TE)	6-4/242	8-7-69	R	Texas	D5/91	—
Hester, Jessie	5-11/172	1-21-63	6	Florida State	FA/90	16/14
Mobley, Orson (TE)	6-5/259	3-6-63	6	Salem-Teikyo (W.Va.)	W-Den/90	*9/8
Morgan, Stanley	5-11/185	2-17-55	15	Tennessee	FA/90	16/6
Simmons, Stacey	5-9/183	8-5-68	2	Florida	D4a/90	14/1
Verdin, Clarence (PR/KR)	5-8/162	6-14-63	6	Southwestern Louisiana	T-Was/88	15/5
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Baldinger, Brian	6-4/278	1-7-59	9	Duke	FA/88	16/16
Call, Kevin (T)	6-7/308	11-13-61	8	Colorado State	D5b/84	8/8
Conlin, Chris (G/C)	6-4/287	6-7-65	2	Penn State	FA/90	16/0
Crafts, Jerry (T)	6-6/333	1-6-68	R	Louisville	D11/91	—
Cunningham, Pat (T)	6-6/295	1-4-69	1	Texas A&M	D4d/90	2/0
Dixon, Randy (G)	6-3/302	3-12-65	5	Pittsburgh	D4/87	15/14
Donaldson, Ray (C)	6-3/300	5-17-58	12	Georgia	D2a/80	16/16
Luedeke, Rob (C)	6-5/271	9-20-67	R	Penn State	D12/91	—
Moss, Zefross (T)	6-6/338	8-17-66	3	Alabama State	T-Dal/89	16/16
Pozderac, Phil (T)	6-9/292	12-19-59	7	Notre Dame	FA/91	0/0
Schultz, William (T)	6-5/293	5-1-67	2	Southern California	D4b/90	12/0
Tomberlin, Pat (G)	6-2/330	1-29-66	3	Florida State	D4/89	16/10
Vander Poel, Mark (T)	6-7/303	3-5-68	R	Colorado	D4/91	—
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Agee, Mel (E)	6-5/290	11-22-68	R	Illinois	D6/91	—
Armstrong, Harvey (NT)	6-3/282	12-29-59	9	Southern Methodist	FA/86	12/10
Clancy, Sam (E)	6-7/290	5-29-58	8	Pittsburgh	PlanB/89	16/8
Curry, Shane (E)	6-5/259	4-7-68	R	Miami (Fla.)	D2/91	—
Davis, Travis (NT)	6-2/283	5-10-66	1	Michigan State	PlanB/91	*2/0
Garalczyk, Mark	6-6/281	8-12-64	3	Western Michigan	FA/91	0/0
Hand, Jon (E)	6-7/301	11-13-63	6	Alabama	D1/86	12/12
McCullough, Richard (E)	6-5/284	7-23-65	3	Clemson	FA/91	0/0
Siragusa, Tony (NT)	6-3/291	5-14-67	2	Pittsburgh	FA/90	13/6
Thompson, Donnell (E)	6-4/280	10-27-58	11	North Carolina	D1b/81	12/12
LINEBACKERS						
Banks, Chip	6-4/254	9-18-59	9	Southern California	T-SD/89	16/16
Bickett, Duane	6-5/251	12-1-62	7	Southern California	D1/85	15/15
Figaro, Cedric	6-2/250	8-17-66	3	Notre Dame	PlanB/91	*16/1
Gianetti, Frank	6-2/267	3-14-68	R	Penn State	D10/91	—
Herrod, Jeff	6-0/246	7-29-66	4	Mississippi	D9/88	13/13
Johnson, Walter	6-0/240	11-13-63	4	Louisiana Tech	FA/91	0/0
McDonald, Quintus	6-3/263	12-14-66	3	Penn State	D6/89	9/1
Radevic, Scott	6-3/236	6-14-62	8	Penn State	W-Buf/90	15/1
Walker, Tony	6-3/235	4-2-68	2	Southeast Missouri State	D6/90	14/0
DEFENSIVE BACKS						
Bail, Michael (S)	6-0/220	8-5-64	4	Southern (La.)	D4/88	16/0
Baylor, John	6-0/203	3-5-65	3	Southern Mississippi	D5/88	10/0
Daniel, Eugene (CB)	5-11/188	5-4-61	8	Louisiana State	D8/84	15/15
Goode, Chris (CB)	6-0/196	9-17-63	5	Alabama	D10/87	16/10
Grant, Alan (CB)	5-10/187	10-1-66	2	Stanford	D4c/90	16/7
Holloway, Cornell (CB)	5-11/182	1-30-66	2	Pittsburgh	FA/90	15/0
McCloughan, Dave (PR/KR)	6-1/180	11-20-66	R	Colorado	D3/91	—
Prior, Mike (S/PR)	6-0/210	11-14-63	6	Illinois State	FA/87	16/16
Robinson, Ron	6-0/185	5-26-67	1	Kentucky	FA/90	IR
Streeter, George (S)	6-2/212	8-28-67	3	Notre Dame	FA/91	4/0
Taylor, Keith (S)	5-11/206	12-21-64	4	Illinois	FA/88	16/16
SPECIALISTS						
Biasucci, Dean (K)	6-0/190	7-25-62	7	Western Carolina	FA/86	16/0
Stark, Rohn (P)	6-3/203	5-4-59	10	Florida State	D2b/82	16/0
OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP						
Terence Barber, WR; Stephen Bates, NT; Romero Brice, LB; Ed Britton, WR; Michael Cline, LB; Willie Davis, DB; Joel Dickson, DL; Jarrod Green, WR; Arthur Guess, WR; Darvell Huffman, WR; Matthew Jaworski, LB; Kenny Jones, DB; Roger Jones, DB; Brian Lattimore, RB; Tony Ollison, DE; Jeff Renner, TE; Darin Shoulders, T; Reggie Thornton, WR; Darrin Trieb, LB; Jason Wallace, CB; Shawn Wax, WR; Robert Weir, DL.						

*Not with Colts in 1990.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

DID YOU KNOW ...

... that bad picks and bad luck have decimated the Colts in the draft's third round? This year's selection, defensive back Dave McCloughan, is the only third-rounder on the roster.

Terrific '90 season gives Miami super idea for '91

By SCOTT FOWLER
Miami Herald

By 1990, Miami inside linebacker John Offerdahl had played football for 18 years, with one measly winning season to show for it.

Junior high, high school, college—no matter what level, Offerdahl was convinced he hung like a 238-pound albatross around every team's neck. He joined the Dolphins in 1986, just in time for a four-year Dolphin slide.

"The only reason I played football was that I was good at it," said Offerdahl, who has made the Pro Bowl in each of his five seasons. "It was a business. I never had any fun."

Then came last season. The Dolphins rolled to an 8-1 start, finished 12-4 and advanced to the second round of the playoffs before losing a wild 44-34 game to Buffalo. For Offerdahl, his teammates and Coach Don Shula, football was finally fun again. Gloriously, wonderfully fun.

"What a breath of fresh air 1990 was," said Shula, 61, whose six Super Bowl appearances rank as the most ever for a National Football League coach.

The Dolphins won't be satisfied unless they usher Shula into his seventh Super Bowl this season. They will have to beat out chief nemesis Buffalo to do that. As always, quarterback Dan Marino will shoulder much of the burden. But the Dolphins will strive for continued balance between the run and



Team player: Quarterback Dan Marino sacrificed statistics and personal glory as the Dolphins attempted to develop a running game last season.

pass with a ground attack led by Sammie Smith, a legitimate candidate to become the team's first 1,000-yard rusher since Delvin Williams in 1978.

The defense picked up the nickname "Miami Pound Machine" early last season but got pounded by Buffalo when it counted. It also must continue to improve, and the acquisition or emergence of another pass rusher to complement end Jeff Cross would be a good place to start.

"We've got to keep rolling," Offerdahl

said. "Not many of us remembered how nice winning really was until last season."

COACHING

Shula brushed aside accusations that the game had passed him by last season, coaxing a playoff berth out of a squad that featured essentially the same personnel that had gone 30-33 over the four previous years. His wife, Dorothy, died of cancer during the off-season, but his son Mike, now a coaches assistant for Miami, has moved in with him.

Shula has shown no sign of slowing down, making several significant trades in the spring and continuing to control every on-field and personnel decision the Dolphins make. Several members of Shula's staff are older than he is and have been with him for years. The system is thoroughly in place.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—Marino, whom Shula has taken to calling "the best drop-back quarterback ever," enters his ninth season with the offense revolving around him, as usual. Although 1990 was far from his best statistically, Marino did enjoy what Shula considers his best year ever.

Marino sacrificed statistics and personal glory as the Dolphins attempted to develop a running game last season. Miami should do the same again this year. Marino was happy, though, because the Dolphins made the playoffs, and for the first time in three years he did not request to be traded during the off-season.

If every Dolphin fan's worst nightmare occurs (an injury to Marino), a pair of untested Scotts—Secules and Mitchell—would fight for the starting role. Both are decent but very green. Marino, who turns 30 in September, would like to keep them that way for a

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: The arm of Dan Marino, the pass blocking of a superb young line and the leadership and sure tackling of inside linebacker John Offerdahl.

Weaknesses: A feeble pass rush, a question mark at left cornerback after the trade of Tim McKyer and a rushing game that tends to deteriorate against strong competition.

Keys to success: The running game—starting it on offense and stopping it on defense. The Dolphins also must prove the success they enjoyed defending the pass in 1990 was no fluke.

Sure sign of trouble: A convincing loss at Buffalo in the season opener would make the Dolphins question themselves. Miami ended its season there in the playoffs last year (a 44-34 defeat) and is pointing toward the game as an impetus for another good year. A decent start is important for the Dolphins because they play five of their first seven games on the road.

That's a fact: The Dan Marino-to-Mark Clayton combination is the NFL's most successful ever in terms of scoring. Marino has hit Clayton 65 times on TD passes in their eight years together.

Coach Don Shula says: "Even though Buffalo beat us in the playoffs, we found out that day we can play them there, eyeball to eyeball. We've got to go through there to go to the Super Bowl. We'll find out in a big hurry if we can when we open there."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Duper	Hill	Banks
LT	Webb	Linn	Dellenbach
LG	Sims	Weidner	G. Williams
C	Uhlenhake	Dellenbach	Weidner
RG	Galbreath	G. Williams	Weidner
RT	Dennis	Linn	Dellenbach
TE	Edmunds	Sievers	Baty
WR	Clayton	Martin	Jensen
QB	Marino	Secules	Mitchell
RB	S. Smith	Craver	Fullwood
FB	Paige	Holt	Limbrick

DEFENSE

LE	Turner	Oglesby	Price
NT	Sochia	Lee	Klingbeil
RE	Cross	Price	Berg
LOLB	Griggs	Junior	Cox
LILB	Offerdahl	Reichenbach	Bolcar
RILB	Grimsley	Krauss	Odum
ROLB	Green	Cooper	Cox
LCB	Jackson	McGruder	Ray
RCB	J. Brown	Lankford	Glenn
SS	J. Williams	Moore	Hobley
FS	Oliver	Harden	Hobley

SPECIALISTS

K	Stoyanovich	Roby
P	Roby	Stoyanovich
KR	Hill	Logan
PR	Martin	J. Williams

while.

RUNNING BACKS—The battle here promises to be one of the most interesting on the team. Sammie Smith found his stride last season, gaining 831 yards, the most by a Dolphin rusher since Larry Csonka bulled for 837 yards in 1979. But no running back in the American Football Conference had more fumbles than Smith (eight), and the Dolphins still aren't convinced he can catch the ball.

On that note, the Dolphins actively pursued running backs in the off-season, signing Buffalo's Don Smith and Cleveland's Brent Fullwood and surprising everyone by using their third-round draft pick on Fresno State's Aaron Craver. At the least, the other backs will compete for the third-down pass-catching role. At fullback, bulldozer blocker Tony Paige appears entrenched, with Leroy Holt the backup.

RECEIVERS—Marks Brothers Clayton and Duper return a year older, which worried Shula enough that he used his top draft pick on the Miami Hurricanes' Randal (Thrill) Hill, the fastest man available once Raghib Ismail blasted to Canada. Duper had a solid '90 campaign, grabbing 52 receptions for 810 yards. Clayton was bothered by injury but came back strong to catch 32 passes last year.

Hill should be the third receiver, but the Dolphins hope that a spring injury (pulled hamstring) doesn't hinder his speed. Jim Jensen returns, and the emergence of Fred Banks, Tony Martin or Andre Brown would be a plus.

Tight end Ferrell Edmunds, an All-Pro the last two seasons, returns after the Dolphins shopped him around in the off-season. The team also picked up veteran Eric Sievers in Plan B for passing situations.

LINEMEN—Left tackle Richmond Webb was a 298-pound success story for the Dolphins in 1990, garnering The Sporting News' Rookie of the Year honors and playing every snap of the season. His second-year counterpart on the left side is guard Keith Sims, who not only had a strong rookie season, but also made a suggestion to Shula that may make the Dolphins' overall line even stronger. Sims told Shula about former Iowa State teammate Gene Williams, and Miami picked him in the fifth round. Williams probably will sub for Harry Galbreath at right guard this season.

Center Jeff Uhlenhake and right tackle Mark Dennis should retain their jobs, with Jeff Dellenbach spelling anyone who needs a break. As pass blockers, this unit should be unbeatable, as always. The Dolphins have led the league in fewest sacks allowed for nine straight years (giving up 16 in 1990).

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—The Dolphins wanted to address this area during the draft but couldn't find anyone worthy of select-

Continued

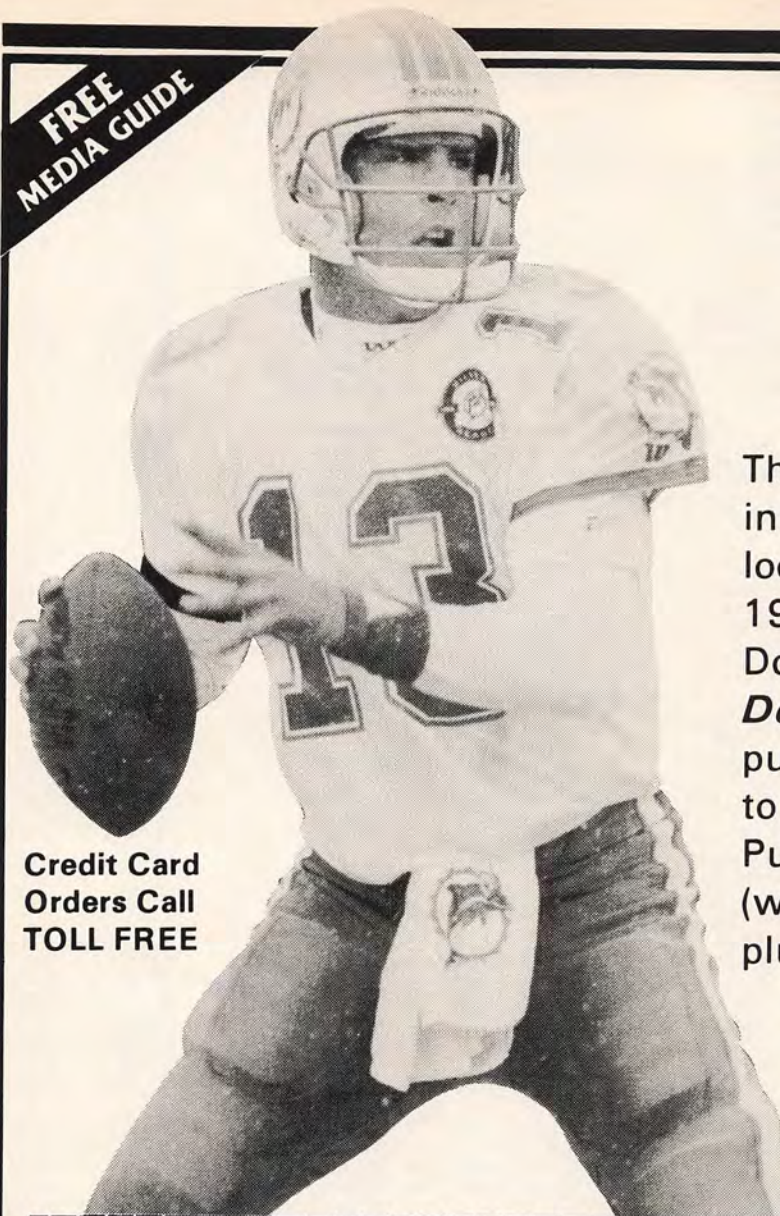
1991 MIAMI DOLPHINS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL Exp.	College	How acq.	'90 Games GP/GS
Marino, Dan	6-4/224	9-15-61	9	Pittsburgh	D1/83	16/16
Mitchell, Scott	6-6/236	1-2-68	1	Utah	D4/90	0/0
Secules, Scott	6-3/220	11-8-64	4	Virginia	T-Dal/89	16/0
RUNNING BACKS						
Craver, Aaron (KR)	5-11/215	12-18-69	R	Fresno State	D3/91	—
Fullwood, Brent	5-11/210	10-10-63	5	Auburn	FA/91	*6/4
Higgs, Mark	5-7/195	4-11-66	4	Kentucky	PlanB/90	12/0
Holt, Leroy (FB)	5-10/224	2-7-67	1	Southern California	D5/90	IR
Limbrick, Garrett (FB)	6-2/240	11-16-65	2	Oklahoma State	FA/90	7/2
Logan, Marc (FB/KR)	5-11/222	5-9-65	5	Kentucky	PlanB/89	16/0
Paige, Tony (FB)	5-10/235	10-14-62	8	Virginia Tech	PlanB/90	13/13
Smith, Don	5-11/200	10-30-63	5	Mississippi State	PlanB/91	*16/2
Smith, Sammie	6-2/230	5-16-67	3	Florida State	D1a/89	16/16
RECEIVERS						
Banks, Fred	5-10/185	5-26-62	6	Liberty	FA/87	8/1
Baty, Greg (TE)	6-5/240	8-28-64	5	Stanford	FA/90	12/0
Brown, Andre	6-3/210	8-21-66	3	Miami (Fla.)	FA/89	6/0
Burton, Ken	6-2/174	7-11-68	R	Northeast Louisiana	FA/91	—
Clayton, Mark (PR)	5-9/185	4-8-61	9	Louisville	D8/83	10/10
Duper, Mark	5-9/192	1-25-59	10	Northwestern (La.) State	D2/82	16/15
Edmunds, Ferrell (TE)	6-6/254	4-16-65	4	Maryland	D3/88	16/16
Hill, Randal (KR)	5-10/177	9-21-69	R	Miami (Fla.)	D1/91	—
Jensen, Jim (RB)	6-4/224	11-14-58	11	Boston University	D11/81	15/2
Martin, Tony (PR)	6-0/180	9-5-65	2	Mesa State (Colo.)	FA/89	16/5
Miller, Scott P.	5-10/179	10-20-68	R	UCLA	D9/91	—
Schwedes, Scott	6-0/185	6-30-65	5	Syracuse	FA/90	9/0
Sievers, Eric (TE)	6-4/238	11-9-57	11	Maryland	PlanB/91	*8/1
Titley, Michael (TE)	6-3/235	5-5-68	R	Iowa	D10/91	—
Williams, Brian	5-9/160	10-14-67	R	Houston	FA/91	—
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Dellenbach, Jeff (T/C)	6-6/285	2-14-63	7	Wisconsin	D4b/85	15/0
Dennis, Mark (T)	6-6/295	4-15-65	5	Illinois	D8b/87	16/16
Galbreath, Harry (G)	6-1/275	1-1-65	4	Tennessee	D8A/88	16/16
Rogers, Ernie (T)	6-5/290	1-3-68	R	California	D11/91	—
Sims, Keith (G)	6-2/305	6-17-67	2	Iowa State	D2/90	14/13
Uhlenhake, Jeff (C)	6-3/284	1-28-66	3	Ohio State	D5/89	16/16
Webb, Richmond (T)	6-6/298	1-11-67	2	Texas A&M	D1/90	16/16
Weidner, Bert (G/C)	6-3/284	11-20-66	2	Kent	D11/89	8/0
Williams, Gene (G)	6-2/308	10-14-68	R	Iowa State	D5a/91	—
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Brunson, Joe (NT)	6-4/270	10-15-68	R	UT-Chattanooga	D12/91	—
Cross, Jeff (E)	6-4/272	3-25-66	4	Missouri	D9/88	16/16
Lee, Shawn (NT)	6-2/285	10-24-66	4	North Alabama	T-TB/90	13/10
Oglesby, Alfred (E)	6-3/278	1-27-67	2	Houston	D3/90	13/6
Price, Terry (E)	6-4/272	4-5-68	2	Texas A&M	PlanB/91	*2/0
Sochia, Brian (NT/E)	6-3/278	7-21-61	9	Northwestern Oklahoma St.	FA/86	5/2
Turner, T.J. (E)	6-4/280	5-16-63	6	Houston	D3/86	14/12
LINEBACKERS						
Bolcar, Ned	6-1/235	1-12-67	3	Notre Dame	PlanB/91	*5/0
Cooper, Louis	6-2/238	8-5-63	7	Western Carolina	PlanB/91	*16/0
Cox, Brian	6-3/235	2-17-68	R	Western Illinois	D5/91	—
Green, Hugh	6-2/230	7-27-59	11	Pittsburgh	T-TB/85	16/16
Griggs, David	6-3/248	2-5-67	3	Virginia	FA/89	16/16
Grimley, John	6-2/238	2-25-62	8	Kentucky	T-Hou/91	*15/13
Junior, E.J.	6-3/242	12-8-59	11	Alabama	PlanB/89	16/0
Krauss, Barry	6-3/250	3-17-57	12	Alabama	W-Cle/89	IR
Odom, Cliff	6-2/243	8-15-58	11	Texas-Arlington	PlanB/90	16/16
Offerdahl, John	6-3/238	8-17-64	6	Western Michigan	D2/86	16/16
Reichenbach, Mike	6-2/240	9-14-61	8	East Stroudsburg (Pa.)	PlanB/90	16/0
DEFENSIVE BACKS						
Brown, J.B. (CB)	6-0/192	1-5-67	3	Maryland	D12/89	16/16
Glenn, Kerry (CB)	5-9/178	1-3-62	5	Minnesota	PlanB/90	16/0
Green, Chris (CB)	5-11/188	2-26-68	R	Illinois	D7/91	—
Harden, Bobby (S)	6-0/192	2-8-67	1	Miami (Fla.)	D12/90	1/0
Hobley, Liffort (S)	6-0/202	5-12-62	6	Louisiana State	FA/87	14/0
Jackson, Vestee (CB)	6-0/186	8-14-63	6	Washington	T-Chi/91	*16/8
Lankford, Paul (CB)	6-1/191	6-15-58	10	Penn State	D3/82	7/0
McGruder, Michael (CB)	5-11/190	5-6-62	2	Kent	FA/90	1/0
Moore, Stevon (S)	5-11/204	2-9-67	2	Mississippi	PlanB/90	7/0
Oliver, Louis (S)	6-2/226	3-9-66	3	Florida	D1b/89	16/16
Smith, Roland (CB)	5-9/180	9-14-69	R	Miami (Fla.)	D8/91	—
Williams, Jarvis (S/KR)	5-11/200	5-16-65	4	Florida	D2/88	16/16
SPECIALISTS						
Roby, Reggie (P)	6-2/246	7-30-61	9	Iowa	D6/83	16/0
Stoyanovich, Pete (K)	5-10/185	4-28-67	3	Indiana	D8/89	16/0
OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP						
Tom Balkcom, S; Steve Berg, DE; Eddie Brown, CB; Tim Brown, DE; Richard Buchanan, WR; Clifford Champ, LB; Pat Duffy, G; Rick Fleece, NT; Darren Handy, C; Charles Henry, TE; Al Higgs, CB; Mike Iaquaniello, S; Eric Jenkins, FB; Jason Jessup, T; Andre Johnson, WR; Joe Johnson, LB; Chuck Klingbeil, NT; Bruce Lang, WR; Jack Linn, T; Chad Martin, G/C; Paul McJulien, P; Scott D. Miller, DE; T.J. Osman, NT; James Parrish, T; Mike Pavelec, T; Kevin Pearson, LB; Doug Pederson, QB; Dwayne Pelham, LB; Pat Ray, CB; Blaine Rose, G; Matt Ruhland, DE; Mark Sander, LB; Stephen Scotton, FB; Chris Stablein, QB; Joel Taylor, WR; Art Walker, DL; Portique Wilburn, T; Gordy Wood, TE.						

*Not with Dolphins in 1990.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

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ing with their first pick. Cross (11½ sacks) enjoyed a Pro Bowl year in 1990, but he registered only one sack in his final eight games once teams figured out that no one else would hurt them on the rush.

T.J. Turner or Alfred Oglesby may start at the other end. The Dolphins have high hopes for Terry Price, a Plan B acquisition from Chicago.

Brian Sochia is the top nose tackle. But Shawn Lee, who started the last 10 games for the Dolphins in 1990, was a pleasant surprise. He could push Sochia for playing time, but Miami still needs help at nose tackle.

LINEBACKERS—Offerdahl anchors the defense. Veteran John Grimsley, who was obtained in a trade with Houston in the off-season, should help considerably as the other starting inside linebacker. The Dolphins believed they had to make that deal because Cliff Odom, second on the team in tackles in 1990, may not fully recover from an injured hip.

Outside linebacker Hugh Green, 32, figures he has a couple more good years left. The other starter, 24-year-old David Griggs, is an up-and-comer. Veteran E.J. Junior provides depth and leadership, while Louis Cooper is a good coverage man and will play in passing situations.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—This unit played well until it was burned to a crisp in the playoffs by Buffalo. The Dolphins' pass defense improved from 18th in the league in 1989 to fifth in 1990. Tim (McMouth) McKyer would gladly tell you that all of that was due to him, but Shula traded the unhappy cornerback to Atlanta on draft day. Former Chicago cornerback Vestee Jackson will try to pick up the slack. J.B. Brown, a former 12th-round draft pick who keeps improving, is the other corner.

The safeties are a couple of Florida Gators, Jarvis Williams and Louis Oliver. It's a fairly solid group that could use some backup help. Bobby Harden may be the nickel back, with Michael McGruder and Paul Lankford competing for time.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Dolphins are very happy with Pete Stoyanovich, whose accuracy (84 percent in 1990) and leg (he hit a playoff-record 58-yard field goal in a win over Kansas City) are both superb.

Punter Reggie Roby returns to boom the ball for a ninth consecutive year. His 42-yard average in 1990 was the lowest of his career, but his quick drop has resulted in only two of his regular-season career kicks being blocked.

The Dolphins made a point of looking for players who could help them in punt and kickoff returns, an area Shula was not satisfied with last season. Hill and Craver figure to test the kickoff-return waters, while Martin will run back punts.



COACHES

Head coach: Don Shula.

Assistant coaches:

George Hill (linebackers).

Tony Nathan (coaches assistant).

Tom Olivadotti (defense).

Mel Phillips (defensive backs).

John Sandusky (assistant head coach/offensive line/run offense).

Larry Seiple (receivers).

Dan Sekanovich (defensive line).

Mike Shula (coaches assistant).

Gary Stevens (quarterbacks, pass offense).

Carl Taseff (offensive backs).

Junior Wade (strength and conditioning).

Mike Westhoff (special teams).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1990 regular-season record: 12-4 (2nd in AFC East); 7-1 in division; 10-2 in conference; 7-1 at home; 5-3 on road.

1990 playoff record: Defeated Chiefs, 17-16, in AFC first-round wild-card game; lost to Bills, 44-34, in AFC divisional playoff game.

Shula's regular-season record: 210-100-2 in 21 seasons with Dolphins; 281-123-6 overall in 28 NFL seasons with Dolphins and Colts.

Shula's postseason record: 15-11 in 13 playoffs with Dolphins (2-3 in Super Bowls); 17-14 overall in 15 playoffs with Dolphins and Colts (2-4 in Super Bowls).

Team record last five years: 42-37 (.532, ranks T13th in league in that span).

1990 team rankings:

	AFC	NFL
Total offense.....	6	11
Rushing offense.....	10	22
Passing offense.....	2	4
Scoring offense.....	6	14
Total defense.....	4	7
Rushing defense.....	8	16
Passing defense.....	3	5
Scoring defense.....	2	4
Takeaways.....	10	T22
Giveaways.....	5	7
Turnover differential.....	5	T10
Sacks.....	T3	T5
Sacks allowed.....	1	1

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

Stadium (capacity): Joe Robbie Stadium (73,000).

Ticket information: 305-620-2578.

Flagship radio station: WIOD, 610 AM.

Training site: St. Thomas University, Miami; 305-625-6491.

1991 SCHEDULE

Sept. 1	—at Buffalo	4:00
Sept. 8	—INDIANAPOLIS	1:00
Sept. 15	—at Detroit	1:00
Sept. 22	—GREEN BAY	1:00
Sept. 29	—at N.Y. Jets	4:00
Oct. 6	—at New England	1:00
Oct. 13	—at Kansas City	3:00
Oct. 20	—HOUSTON	1:00
Oct. 27	—Open date	
Nov. 3	—at Indianapolis	4:00
Nov. 10	—NEW ENGLAND	8:00
Nov. 18	—BUFFALO (Mon.)	9:00
Nov. 24	—at Chicago	12:00
Dec. 1	—TAMPA BAY	1:00
Dec. 9	—CINCINNATI (Mon.)	9:00
Dec. 15	—at San Diego	1:00
Dec. 22	—N.Y. JETS	1:00

All times local. All games Sunday unless noted.

1990 RESULTS

Sept. 9	—at New England	27-24
Sept. 16	—BUFFALO	30-7
Sept. 23	—at N.Y. Giants	3-20
Sept. 30	—at Pittsburgh	28-6
Oct. 7	—N.Y. JETS	20-16
Oct. 14	—Open date	
Oct. 18	—NEW ENGLAND	17-10
Oct. 28	—at Indianapolis	27-7
Nov. 4	—PHOENIX	23-3
Nov. 11	—at N.Y. Jets	17-3
Nov. 19	—L.A. RAIDERS	10-13
Nov. 25	—at Cleveland	30-13
Dec. 2	—at Washington	20-42
Dec. 9	—PHILADELPHIA (OT)	23-20
Dec. 16	—SEATTLE	24-17
Dec. 23	—at Buffalo	14-24
Dec. 30	—INDIANAPOLIS	23-17

1990 LEADERS

Scoring (kicking): Pete Stoyanovich, 100 pts. (37/37 PATs, 21/25 FGs).

Scoring (touchdowns): Sammie Smith, 54 pts. (8 rushing, 1 receiving).

Passing: Dan Marino, 3,563 yds. (531 att., 306 comp., 57.6%, 21 TDs, 11 int.).

Rushing: Sammie Smith, 831 yds. (226 att., 3.7 avg., 8 TDs).

Receptions: Mark Duper, 52 (810 yds., 5 TDs).

Interceptions: Louis Oliver, 5 (87 yds., 0 TDs); Jarvis Williams, 5 (82 yds., 1 TD).

Tackles: John Offerdahl, 116 (98 solo, 18 assisted).

Sacks: Jeff Cross, 11.5 (95.5 yds.).

Punting: Reggie Roby, 42.0 avg. (72 punts).

Punt returns: Tony Martin, 5.4 avg. (26 att.).

Kickoff returns: Marc Logan, 18.4 avg. (20 att.).

1990 FANTASY STATISTICS

Statistics included for current members of 1991 roster only.

Name	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING				Defensive TDs	Total TDs
	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	18-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs		
Clayton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Duper	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	5
Edmunds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Fullwood	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Glenn	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
M. Higgs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Jackson	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Jensen	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Logan	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Marino	8	11	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21
Martin	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Odom	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Paige	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Schwedes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
D. Smith	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
S. Smith	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
Sochia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Stoyanovich	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	4	2	37	—	—
Williams	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

* fumble recovery. * interception. † blocked punt.

Patriots face long, winding road to respectability

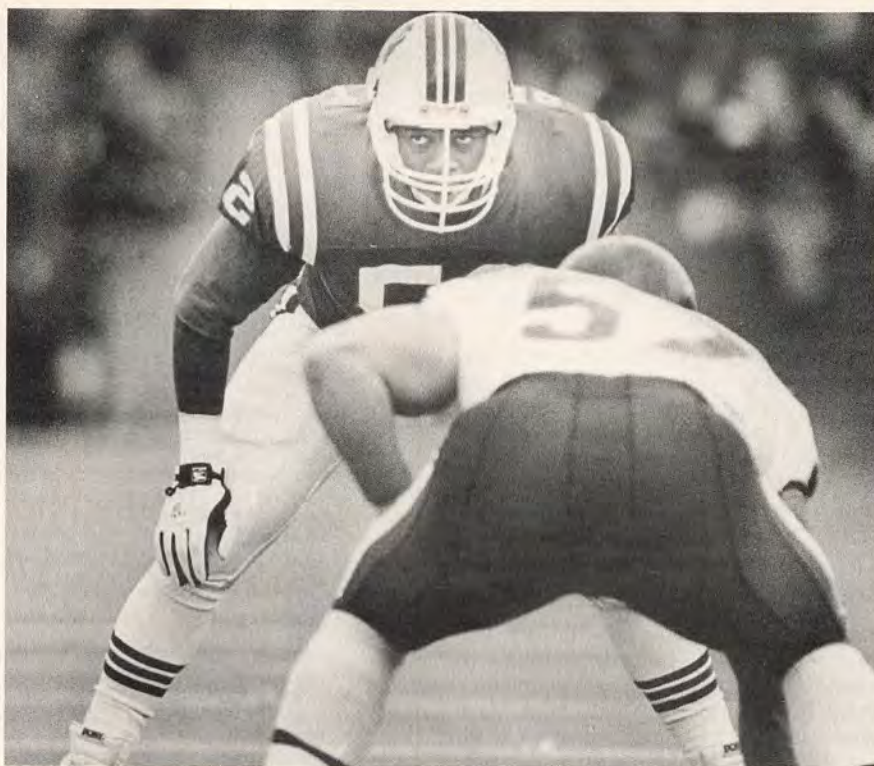
By KEVIN MANNIX
Boston Herald

So, where does a team go after it's lost 15 games, a general manager, a coaching staff and the respect of its fans? Well, the New England Patriots hope to discover that this year because they did all of the above in 1990. But even the most optimistic among the Patriots' new front-office people, headed by former Miami (Fla.) athletic director Sam Jankovich, knows the road back to respectability will be long, winding and strewn with potholes.

Attaining respectability—not making the playoffs—is the Patriots' goal in 1991. Given the embarrassing performances of the players on the field and in the locker room, and of Owner Victor Kiam in the aftermath of the sexual harassment of reporter Lisa Olson, respectability will be a long time coming to this franchise. New Coach Dick MacPherson has stressed repeatedly that recovery will be slow. But being an incurable optimist, he's looking at the bright side.

The defense should be the brightest side, especially the front seven. The key is having players like Andre Tippett and Garin Veris rebound from subpar, injury-riddled seasons.

On offense, New England boasts a solid corps of running backs and wide receivers, but it's unlikely either unit will excel given the weak condition of



Eyeing a comeback: New England linebacker Johnny Rembert, a two-time Pro Bowl selection, must bounce back after missing 11 games with a knee injury last year.

the offensive line and inexperience at quarterback.

"We have the chance to make the greatest impact of any team in pro foot-

ball," said MacPherson, the former Syracuse head coach who replaces Rod Rust. "Nobody else can do what we can do this year."

Patriots fans just hope the team does more than it did in 1990.

COACHING

This is the 60-year-old MacPherson's first shot as a National Football League head coach, but he has been a head coach in college for 17 years and also was an NFL assistant for seven years.

MacPherson surrounded himself with veteran assistants. Defensive coordinator Joe Collier served as head coach of the Buffalo Bills for a little over two years and was a defensive coordinator in Denver from 1969 through 1988. Continuity won't be a problem. Three of Collier's defensive assistants—Stan Jones, Myrel Moore and Charlie West—all served with him at Denver. Offensive coordinator Dick Coury has 19 years of pro coaching experience.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—Now that the Patriots have found new off-field leaders, they must find an on-field leader. Steve Grogan, the best quarterback in the history of the franchise, was waived in the off-season, and Marc Wilson retired. That leaves Tom Hodson, who started six games as a rookie in '90, and Plan B free agent Hugh Millen to battle for the starting position.

The Patriots lost all six games Hod-

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: The defensive line and linebackers have talent among the starters. If people like Andre Tippett, Johnny Rembert and Garin Veris can stay healthy, this defense will stop people. John Stephens, Leonard Russell and Marvin Allen are solid running backs.

Weaknesses: The lack of a proven quarterback could be an unresolvable weakness. If neither Tom Hodson nor Hugh Millen is able to keep defenses honest, the Patriots won't win four games despite having a dependable defense.

Key to success: The ability of Dick MacPherson and his staff to instill some confidence in a team that went through the motions in 1990.

Sure sign of trouble: Lengthy holdouts by unsigned veterans or rookies—particularly Stephens and Russell.

That's a fact: The Patriots' offense scored more than two touchdowns in only one game in 1990—a 27-24 loss in the opener against Miami. The offense scored one touchdown or less in 13 of 16 games.

Coach Dick MacPherson says: "This team will be well coached. We've been around a long time and seen all there is to see. We won't make stupid mistakes."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Fryar	Martin	Timpson
LT	Armstrong	Melander	Viaene
LG	Gambol	Crawford	Clayton
C	Villa	Chilton	Crawford
RG	Stephens	Crawford	Glenn
RT	Harlow	Clayton	Melander
TE	Cook	Mowatt	
WR	Dykes	McMurtry	Moore
QB	Hodson	Millen	Zoiak
RB	J. Stephens	Russell	Allen
HB	Allen	Hunter	Jones

DEFENSE

LE	Williams	Gannon	Hobby
NT	Goad	Smith	Edwards
RE	Agnew	Veris	Smith
LOLB	Tippett	Harvey	Howard
LILB	Rembert	Jarostchuk	Lockhart
RILB	Reynolds	Brown	Harvey
ROLB	Singleton	Tardits	Howard
LCB	Hurst	Coleman	Robinson
RCB	Lippett	Henderson	Washington
SS	James	Zackery	Francis
FS	Marion	Gordon	Francis

SPECIALISTS

K	Stavrovsky	
P	Alsburry	Wagner
KR	Allen	Martin
PR	Fryar	Timpson

son started and struggled offensively in each. Although he completed 85 of 156 pass attempts for four touchdowns and five interceptions, the Pats scored only 51 points in those six games. Despite the statistical sag, the players felt confident with Hodson.

Millen is an interesting case. He has started just three games in his four-year pro career, but he will enter camp as at least a co-favorite to win the starting job. He's big, has a strong arm and stands tall in the pocket.

RUNNING BACKS—John Stephens is coming off two consecutive injury-marred seasons following a trip to the Pro Bowl as a rookie. He's an effective power runner and a good receiver and blocker. If he gets some help from his line, he'll provide the rushing yards the Patriots need.

Stephens will be pushed by first-round draft pick Leonard Russell. Russell is expected to play a lot because MacPherson wants to establish New England as a ball-control team.

Marvin Allen is the secret weapon. He has good outside speed and some make-them-miss moves, but because of a series of injuries he has been a cameo player. The Patriots signed Plan B free agents Ivy Joe Hunter and Victor Jones to fill the blocking-back spot.

RECEIVERS—Despite the loss of Cedric Jones to Plan B free agency and Irving Fryar's continued unhappiness, the receiving corps is solid. Fryar wants to be traded, but the Pats believe they can't get a fair deal, so he'll be back. Fryar provides the deep threat, while Hart Lee Dykes is the over-the-middle receiver.

Michael Timpson will get a chance to be a regular. He showed excellent speed but inconsistent catching ability in brief playing time a year ago. Greg McMurtry could develop into a solid receiver.

Tight end Marv Cook was one of the team's most consistent and effective offensive performers last year.

LINEMEN—In 1990, New England's offensive line was unquestionably the worst in the league and may have been the worst in team history. Aside from perennial Pro Bowl tackle Bruce Armstrong, the rest of the line struggled.

Chris Gambol is the incumbent guard starting next to Armstrong. If he falters, Stan Clayton or Elbert Crawford could step in.

Rookies Pat Harlow and Calvin Stephens are expected to start on the right side of the line at tackle and guard, respectively. Danny Villa, moved from tackle to center last year, is a key figure in an improved line.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—The fact that the Patriots drafted only one lineman shows they're happy with their front three. End Brent Williams, who has led the team in sacks for three straight years, is the star.

New England's line will be solid if

Continued

1991 NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL Exp.	Collage	How acq.	'90 Games GP/GS
Hodson, Tom	6-3/195	1-28-67	2	Louisiana State	D3/90	7/6
Millen, Hugh	6-5/216	11-22-63	5	Washington	PlanB/91	*3/2
Zolak, Scott	6-5/222	12-13-67	R	Maryland	D4/91	—
RUNNING BACKS						
Adams, George	6-1/225	12-22-62	6	Kentucky	PlanB/90	16/7
Allen, Marvin (KR)	5-10/208	11-23-65	4	Tulane	D11/88	8/3
Hunter, Ivy Joe	6-1/248	11-16-66	3	Kentucky	PlanB/91	*16/1
Jones, Victor	5-8/212	12-5-67	2	Louisiana State	PlanB/91	*10/0
Landry, Anthony	5-9/200	10-28-66	1	Stephen F. Austin State	D10/90	0/0
Russell, Leonard	6-1/237	11-17-69	R	Arizona State	D1a/91	—
Stephens, John	6-1/215	2-23-66	4	Northwestern (La.) State	D1/88	16/14
Strachan, Steve	6-1/225	3-22-63	6	Boston College	FA/91	0/0
Vaughn, Jon	5-9/203	3-12-70	R	Michigan	D5/91	—
RECEIVERS						
Bethel, Randy (TE)	6-3/280	9-6-69	R	Miami (Fla.)	D10/91	—
Coates, Ben (TE)	5-5/250	8-16-69	R	Livingstone (N.C.)	D5a/91	—
Cook, Marv (TE)	6-4/234	2-24-66	3	Iowa	D3a/89	16/16
Dykes, Hart Lee	6-4/218	9-2-66	3	Oklahoma State	D1/89	10/10
Fryar, Irving (PR)	6-0/200	9-28-62	8	Nebraska	D1/84	16/15
Martin, Sammy (KR)	5-11/175	8-21-65	4	Louisiana State	D4a/88	10/0
McMurtry, Greg	6-2/207	10-15-67	2	Michigan	D3a/90	13/5
Moore, Vincent	5-10/200	11-7-67	R	Tennessee	D11/91	—
Mowatt, Zeke (TE)	6-3/240	3-5-61	8	Florida State	PlanB/90	10/0
Timpson, Michael (KR)	5-10/175	6-6-67	3	Penn State	D4/89	5/0
Warner, Kirk (TE)	6-4/225	11-24-67	1	Georgia	FA/90	0/0
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Armstrong, Bruce (T)	6-4/284	9-7-65	5	Louisville	D1/87	16/16
Chilton, Gene (C)	6-3/286	3-27-64	5	Texas	FA/90	4/3
Clayton, Stan (T/G)	6-3/265	1-31-65	4	Penn State	FA/90	11/3
Crawford, Elbert (C/G)	6-3/280	6-20-66	2	Arkansas	FA/90	14/0
Gambol, Chris (G/T)	6-6/303	9-4-64	4	Iowa	PlanB/90	16/15
Glenn, O'Neil (G)	6-2/280	1-27-68	R	Maryland	D9/91	—
Harlow, Pat (T)	6-6/280	3-16-69	R	Southern California	D1/91	—
Melander, Jon (T)	6-7/280	12-27-66	1	Minnesota	D5a/90	IR
Miller, Blake (C)	6-1/281	8-23-68	R	Louisiana State	D7/91	—
Stephens, Calvin (G)	6-1/285	10-25-67	R	South Carolina	D3/91	—
Vlaene, David (T)	6-5/300	7-14-65	3	Minnesota-Duluth	PlanB/89	4/4
Villa, Danny (C/T)	6-5/305	9-21-64	5	Arizona State	D5/87	16/16
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Agnew, Ray (E)	6-3/272	12-9-67	2	North Carolina State	D1a/89	12/9
DeRiggi, Fred (NT)	6-2/268	1-15-67	2	Syracuse	FA/90	2/0
Edwards, Timothy (T)	6-1/270	8-29-68	R	Delta State (Miss.)	D12/91	—
Gannon, Chris (E)	6-6/260	1-20-66	3	Southwestern Louisiana	PlanB/90	6/2
Goad, Tim (NT)	6-3/280	2-28-66	4	North Carolina	D4/88	16/16
Hobby, Marion (E)	6-4/277	11-7-66	2	Tennessee	FA/90	16/5
Smith, Sean (E)	6-7/280	5-29-67	2	Georgia Tech	D11/90	15/0
Veris, Garin (E)	6-4/255	2-27-63	6	Stanford	D2/85	7/2
Williams, Brent (E)	6-4/275	10-23-64	6	Toledo	D7a/86	16/16
LINEBACKERS						
Brown, Vincent	6-2/245	1-9-65	4	Mississippi Valley State	D2/88	16/14
Harvey, Richard	6-1/227	9-11-66	2	Tulane	PlanB/90	16/9
Howard, David	6-2/230	12-8-61	7	Long Beach State	T-Dal/91	*16/0
Jarostchuk, Iliia	6-3/245	8-1-64	5	New Hampshire	PlanB/90	12/1
Lockhart, Eugene	6-2/233	3-8-61	8	Houston	T-Dal/91	*16/16
Rembert, Johnny	6-3/234	1-19-61	9	Clemson	D4/83	5/5
Reynolds, Ed	5-5/242	9-23-61	9	Virginia	FA/83	12/12
Singleton, Chris	6-2/247	2-20-67	2	Arizona	D1/90	13/4
Tardits, Richard	6-2/218	7-30-65	1	Georgia	FA/90	2/1
Tippett, Andre	6-3/241	12-27-59	9	Iowa	D2a/82	13/13
DEFENSIVE BACKS						
Coleman, Eric (CB)	6-0/190	12-27-66	3	Wyoming	D2/89	7/0
Colon, Harry (S)	5-11/203	2-14-69	R	Missouri	D8/91	—
Francis, Ron (S)	5-9/186	4-7-64	5	Baylor	T-Dal/91	*15/0
Gibson, Ernest (CB)	5-10/185	10-3-61	7	Furman	PlanB/90	IR
Gordon, Tim (S)	6-0/188	5-7-65	5	Tulsa	FA/90	*5/0
Henderson, Jerome (CB)	5-10/189	8-8-69	R	Clemson	D2/91	—
Hurst, Maurice (CB)	5-10/185	9-17-67	3	Southern (La.)	D4a/89	16/16
James, Roland (S)	6-2/191	2-18-58	12	Tennessee	D1/80	6/4
Key, David	5-10/198	3-27-68	R	Michigan	D6/91	—
Lippett, Ronnie (CB)	5-11/180	12-10-60	8	Miami (Fla.)	D8/83	16/16
Marion, Fred (S)	6-2/191	1-2-59	10	Miami (Fla.)	D5/82	16/16
Robinson, Junior (CB)	5-9/181	2-3-68	2	East Carolina	D5/90	16/0
Washington, Mickey (CB)	5-9/187	7-8-68	2	Texas A&M	FA/90	9/0
Zackery, Tony (S)	6-2/195	11-20-66	2	Washington	PlanB/90	2/0
SPECIALISTS						
Alsbury, Paul (P)	6-1/203	9-6-69	R	Southwest Texas State	D11a/91	—
Staurovsky, Jason (K)	5-9/170	3-23-63	5	Tulsa	FA/88	16/0
Wagner, Bryan (P)	6-2/200	3-28-62	5	Cal State-Northridge	FA/91	*16/0
OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP						
Reggie Clark, LB; Ben Crimm, OL; Sean Foster, WR; Shawn McCarthy, QB/P; Reggie McGee, WR; Mike Murphy, WR; Brian Ryder, LB; Bob Stephens, OL; Rob Thomson (S).						

*Not with Patriots in 1990.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that the Patriots were the first team since the league went to a 16-game schedule (1978) to score less than 200 points in a season? They scored 181 last year.

COACHES

Head coach: Dick MacPherson.

Assistant coaches:

Joe Collier (defensive coordinator).

Dick Coury (offensive coordinator).

Joel Collier (assistant running backs/wide receivers).

Ivan Fears (wide receivers).

Norm Gerber (inside linebackers).

Bobby Grier (running backs).

Rod Humenuik (offensive line).

Stan Jones (defensive line).

Myrel Moore (outside linebackers).

Dante Scarnecchia (special teams/tight ends/offensive tackles).

Dave Uyrus (assistant special teams/defensive line).

Charlie West (defensive backs).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1990 regular-season record: 1-15 (5th in AFC East); 1-7 in division; 1-11 in conference; 0-8 at home; 1-7 on road.

1990 playoff record: None.

MacPherson's regular-season record: First year as NFL head coach.

Team record last five years: 34-45 (.430, ranks 21st in league in that span).

1990 team rankings:	AFC	NFL
Total offense.....	13	26
Rushing offense.....	12	25
Passing offense.....	10	20
Scoring offense.....	14	28
Total defense.....	14	27
Rushing defense.....	14	28
Passing defense.....	7	13
Scoring defense.....	13	27
Takeaways.....	5	12
Giveaways.....	T11	T19
Turnover differential.....	T9	T18
Sacks.....	T10	T20
Sacks allowed.....	14	27

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

Stadium (capacity): Foxboro Stadium (60,794).

Ticket information: 508-543-1776.

Flagship radio station: WBZ, 1030 AM.

Training site: Bryant College, Smithfield, R.I.; 508-543-8200.

1991 SCHEDULE

Sept. 1—at Indianapolis	3:00
Sept. 8—CLEVELAND	1:00
Sept. 15—at Pittsburgh	1:00
Sept. 22—HOUSTON	1:00
Sept. 29—at Phoenix	1:00
Oct. 6—MIAMI	1:00
Oct. 13—Open date	
Oct. 20—MINNESOTA	1:00
Oct. 27—DENVER	1:00
Nov. 3—at Buffalo	1:00
Nov. 10—at Miami	8:00
Nov. 17—N.Y. JETS	1:00
Nov. 24—BUFFALO	1:00
Dec. 1—at Denver	2:00
Dec. 8—INDIANAPOLIS	1:00
Dec. 15—at N.Y. Jets	1:00
Dec. 22—at Cincinnati	1:00

All times local.

All games Sunday.

1990 RESULTS

Sept. 9—MIAMI	24-27
Sept. 16—at Indianapolis	16-14
Sept. 23—at Cincinnati	7-41
Sept. 30—N.Y. JETS	13-37
Oct. 7—SEATTLE	20-33
Oct. 14—Open date	
Oct. 18—at Miami	10-17
Oct. 28—BUFFALO	10-27
Nov. 4—at Philadelphia	20-48
Nov. 11—INDIANAPOLIS	10-13
Nov. 18—at Buffalo	0-14
Nov. 25—at Phoenix	14-34
Dec. 2—KANSAS CITY	7-37
Dec. 9—at Pittsburgh	3-24
Dec. 15—WASHINGTON	10-25
Dec. 23—at N.Y. Jets	7-42
Dec. 30—N.Y. GIANTS	10-13

1990 LEADERS

Scoring (kicking): Jason Staurovsky, 67 pts. (19/19 PATs, 16/22 FGs).

Scoring (touchdowns): Marv Cook, 30 pts. (5 receiving).

Passing: Marc Wilson, 1,625 yds. (265 att., 139 comp., 52.5%, 6 TDs, 11 int.).

Rushing: John Stephens, 808 yds. (212 att., 3.8 avg., 2 TDs).

Receptions: Irving Fryar, 54 (856 yds., 15.9 avg., 4 TDs).

Interceptions: Ronnie Lippett, 4 (94 yds., 0 TDs); Maurice Hurst, 4 (61 yds., 0 TDs); Fred Marion, 4 (17 yds., 0 TDs).

Tackles: Fred Marion, 119 (84 solo, 35 assisted).

Sacks: Brent Williams, 6 (50 yds.).

Punting: Brian Hansen, 41.7 avg. (90 punts, 3,752 yds., 2 blocked).

Punt returns: Irving Fryar, 4.8 avg. (28 att., 133 yds., 0 TDs).

Kickoff returns: Sammy Martin, 20.6 avg. (25 att., 515 yds., 0 TDs).

1990 FANTASY STATISTICS

Statistics included for current members of 1991 roster only.

Name	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING				Defensive TDs	Total TDs
	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	18-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs		
Adams	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Allen	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cook	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Dykes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Fryar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Hodson	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Martin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Millen	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Staurovsky	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	8	1	19	-	-
J. Stephens	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Williams	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1

* fumble recovery.

Veris and Ray Agnew stay healthy. Veris was the Patriots' best lineman in 1987 and 1988 but missed all of 1989 with a knee injury and most of 1990 with more knee problems. Agnew was hampered by leg and calf problems during his rookie season.

Nose tackle Tim Goad is an iron man who does a solid job jamming the middle against the run.

LINEBACKERS—This should be a strong suit—if everyone remains healthy. The key is for Tippet to return to his Pro Bowl form after a conservative scheme and a sore knee restricted the outside linebacker's effectiveness last year.

Tippet's counterpart on the outside, Chris Singleton, disappointed as a rookie after arriving late to camp. But the Patriots are convinced he can be a do-everything linebacker.

Inside linebacker Johnny Rembert, a two-time Pro Bowl selection, must bounce back after missing 11 games last year with a knee injury. With him on the sidelines, the Pats had no one to cover backs and tight ends over the middle. Ed Reynolds joins Rembert on the inside. He needs to regain the form he displayed in 1989, when he led the team in tackles.

The Patriots are still waiting for Vincent Brown to develop. Maybe this year they'll keep him on the inside, his most natural position, instead of shuffling him inside and outside.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—Here is the real question mark of the defense. Veteran safeties Fred Marion and Roland James played with a series of injuries last year. As a result, the middle of the Pats' defense was suspect against both the pass and run.

Cornerback Maurice Hurst provides the best coverage among the defensive backs but needs to improve against the run. Ronnie Lippett struggled after returning from Achilles tendon surgery. If his coverage skills continue to wane, he could be shifted from cornerback to safety.

Rookie cornerback Jerome Henderson and safety Ron Francis, acquired in a trade from Dallas, could see extensive action.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Place-kicker Jason Staurovsky is consistent. He converted 16 of 22 field-goal attempts and tied a team record with a 53-yard field goal last year. He was flawless on extra points.

The punting job is up for grabs with the Plan B departure of Brian Hansen to Cleveland. Rookie Paul Alsbury and free agent Bryan Wagner, who played for Cleveland last year, will compete for that job.

Reluctantly, Fryar again will serve as punt returner. Kickoff returns will be handled by Allen and Sammy Martin, who could develop into a big-time return man.



Jet-lagged defense delays New York's recovery

By RICH CIMINI
Newsday

Inside the New York Jets' locker room after their season-ending victory over Tampa Bay, the players celebrated as though they had captured a playoff berth. In reality, they were 6-10, good for fourth place in the American Football Conference Eastern Division.

Toasting a six-win season might seem odd, but the Jets viewed it as a happy ending. They also saw it as the beginning of something special. This fall, we'll find out how special.

The first year of Coach Bruce Coslet's and Vice President/General Manager Dick Steinberg's rebuilding plan was a success—two wins better than the 1989 debacle—but the '91 expectations will be higher and the pressure more intense.

"Our goal is to somehow get in the playoffs," Coslet said. "I'm not saying we're going to go 12-4 and whip Buffalo's butt for the championship—we have to be realistic—but there's no reason why, if we play up to our level, we can't win 10 or 11 games. We're at the point now where we can beat anybody in the league if we're at the top of our game."

The euphoria will fade quickly if the Jets can't compete against upper-echelon teams. Last season, they defeated only one team that finished with a winning record (Houston).



Great expectations: A series of injuries hampered running back Blair Thomas during his rookie season, but the Jets are expecting big things this year.

Looking at this season, the Jets should be exciting, thanks to an offense oozing with talent at the skill positions. Defensively, they still have too many

holes to be considered a contender.

COACHING

You have to admit this about Coslet: He's much more flamboyant and unpredictable than his predecessor, Joe Walton. As a rookie head coach, Coslet made some brilliant moves and some bizarre moves on the field. Off the field, Coslet was terrific, revitalizing a team whose attitude had been destroyed by the final "daze" of Walton.

Defensive coordinator Pete Carroll, 39, is a young coach with a bright future. Well-traveled Larry Beightol should continue doing a fine job with a patchwork offensive line.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—If the New York fans had their way, Ken O'Brien would be history. But, the way it stands, they will have to live with O'Brien for at least one more season.

Despite his many shortcomings, O'Brien still is the Jets' best bet for '91. He hasn't had a big year since 1986, but he can be productive if the line gives him time in the pocket, which is a big "if."

If O'Brien sputters, they have two young arms in the bullpen. Troy Taylor, who played briefly as a rookie in '90, has mobility and moxie but questionable arm strength. Rookie Browning Nagle, the likely heir apparent, has a rifle arm, but he needs time to develop.

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: Receivers Al Toon and Rob Moore and running back Blair Thomas give the Jets big-play potential on offense. The Jets also are deep at those positions. Pat Leahy is a dependable place-kicker.

Weaknesses: Defense. The Jets are poor against the run and worse against the pass. They lack a proven pass rusher and a big-play linebacker. Offensively, they can't protect immobile quarterback Ken O'Brien well enough to open up the passing game.

Keys to success: The further development of Dennis Byrd and Jeff Lageman on the defensive line, a return to Pro Bowl form by free safety Erik McMillan, a healthy offensive line and an improved performance by O'Brien.

Sure sign of trouble: If New York loses at home to Tampa Bay in the season opener. The Jets then play at Seattle, followed by the toughest stretch in their schedule—hosting Buffalo, traveling to Chicago and hosting Miami.

That's a fact: The Jets haven't won a division title since 1969, the year after they captured Super Bowl III.

Coach Bruce Coslet says: "Going into (the 1990 season), we didn't know quite what to expect. I think we did a lot of positive things. Our record wasn't what we wanted it to be, but if you look at the overall building part of it, I think the foundation was established and we're on the right road."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Toon	Burkett	Dawkins
LT	Criswell	Mattes	
LG	White	Haight	
C	Sweeney	Duffy	
RG	Cadigan	Haight	
RT	Eatman	Mattes	
TE	Boyer	Kelly	Wellsandt
WR	Moore	Mathis	
QB	O'Brien	Taylor	Nagle
RB	Thomas	McNeil	
FB	Baxter	Hector	

DEFENSE

LE	Bosa	M. Washington	
LT	Pickel	Nichols	Mersereau
RT	Byrd	Gunn	
RE	Lageman	Davis	
LLB	Mott	Lewis	Houston
MLB	Clifton	Galvin	
RLB	Kelly	Johnson	Houston
LCB	Stargell	Brim	
RCB	Hasty	Odegard	
SS	B. Washington	Curtis	James
FS	McMillan	Parrish	

SPECIALISTS

K	Leahy	Prokop	
P	Prokop	Leahy	
KR	Townsell	Mathis	Parrish
PR	Townsell	Mathis	Odegard

Continued

COACHES

Head coach: Bruce Coslet.
Assistant coaches:
 Larry Beightol (offensive line).
 Kippy Brown (running backs).
 Pete Carroll (defensive coordinator).
 Joe Daniels (quarterbacks).
 Ed Donatell (defensive assistant/defensive backs).
 Foge Fazio (linebackers).
 Greg Mackrides (strength and conditioning).
 Chip Myers (receivers).
 Al Roberts (special teams coordinator).
 Greg Robinson (defensive line).
 Bob Wylie (offensive assistant/tight ends).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1990 regular-season record: 6-10 (4th in AFC East); 2-6 in division; 4-10 in conference; 3-5 at home; 3-5 on road.

1990 playoff record: None.

Coslet's regular-season record: 6-10 in one season with Jets.

Coslet's postseason record: None.

Team record last five years: 34-44-1 (.437, ranks 20th in league in that span).

1990 team rankings:	AFC	NFL
Total offense.....	8	16
Rushing offense.....	2	4
Passing offense.....	11	21
Scoring offense.....	10	19
Total defense.....	11	23
Rushing defense.....	10	19
Passing defense.....	13	24
Scoring defense.....	9	17
Takeaways.....	9	21
Giveaways.....	T3	T4
Turnover differential.....	4	T6
Sacks.....	T6	T13
Sacks allowed.....	T9	T14

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

Stadium (capacity): Giants Stadium (76,891).
Ticket information: 516-538-7200.
Flagship radio station: WCBS, 880 AM.
Training site: Hofstra University, Hempstead, N.Y.; 516-538-6600.

1991 SCHEDULE

Sept. 1—TAMPA BAY	1:00
Sept. 8—at Seattle	1:00
Sept. 15—BUFFALO	4:00
Sept. 23—at Chicago (Mon.)	8:00
Sept. 29—MIAMI	4:00
Oct. 6—at Cleveland	1:00
Oct. 13—HOUSTON	4:00
Oct. 20—at Indianapolis	12:00
Oct. 27—Open date	
Nov. 3—GREEN BAY	1:00
Nov. 10—INDIANAPOLIS	1:00
Nov. 17—at New England	1:00
Nov. 24—SAN DIEGO	4:00
Dec. 1—at Buffalo	1:00
Dec. 8—at Detroit	4:00
Dec. 15—NEW ENGLAND	1:00
Dec. 22—at Miami	1:00

All times local.

All games Sunday unless noted.

1990 RESULTS

Sept. 9—at Cincinnati	20-25
Sept. 16—CLEVELAND	24-21
Sept. 23—BUFFALO	7-30
Sept. 30—at New England	37-13
Oct. 7—at Miami	16-20
Oct. 14—SAN DIEGO	3-39
Oct. 21—at Buffalo	27-30
Oct. 28—at Houston	17-12
Nov. 4—DALLAS	24-9
Nov. 11—MIAMI	3-17
Nov. 18—at Indianapolis	14-17
Nov. 25—PITTSBURGH	7-24
Dec. 2—at San Diego	17-38
Dec. 9—Open date	
Dec. 16—INDIANAPOLIS	21-29
Dec. 23—NEW ENGLAND	42-7
Dec. 30—at Tampa Bay	16-14

1990 LEADERS

Scoring (kicking): Pat Leahy, 101 pts. (32/32 PATs, 23/26 FGs).

Scoring (touchdowns): Brad Baxter, 36 pts. (6 rushing); Freeman McNeil, 36 pts. (6 rushing); Rob Moore, 36 pts. (6 receiving); Al Toon, 36 pts. (6 receiving).

Passing: Ken O'Brien, 2,855 yds. (411 att., 226 comp., 55%, 13 TDs, 10 int.).

Rushing: Blair Thomas, 620 yds. (123 att., 5.0 avg., 1 TD).

Receptions: Al Toon, 57 (757 yds., 13.3 avg., 6 TDs).

Interceptions: Erik McMillan, 5 (92 yds., 0 TDs).

Tackles: Kyle Clifton, 195 (140 solo, 55 assisted).

Sacks: Dennis Byrd, 13.

Punting: Joe Prokop, 40.1 avg. (59 punts, 2,363 yds., 0 blocked).

Punt returns: JoJo Townsell, 9.1 avg. (17 att., 154 yds., 0 TDs).

Kickoff returns: Terance Mathis, 18.3 avg. (43 att., 787 yds., 0 TDs).

1990 FANTASY STATISTICS

Statistics included for current members of 1991 roster only.

Name	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING				Defensive TDs	Total TDs
	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	18-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs		
Baxter	-	-	-	-	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	
Boyer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Davis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Hector	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
Leahy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	3	32	-	-	
Mathis	-	-	-	-	-	1°	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
McNeil	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Moore	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	6	
O'Brien	7	2	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	
Taylor	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
Thomas	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
Toon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	3	-	-	-	-	6	

* fumble recovery. ° punt return.

RUNNING BACKS—The top rusher last season (Blair Thomas) ran for only 620 yards, but as a team, the Jets finished with 2,127—fourth best in the league. Coslet believes in balance, rotating his backs to keep them fresh, and he certainly has enough talent to make his system work.

Thomas is a gifted back with 1,000-yard potential. A series of injuries hampered the rookie last season, but the Jets are expecting big things this year.

The starting fullback is Brad Baxter, the biggest surprise of '90. Considered a longshot to make the team, he won a starting job before the season started. He provided excellent blocking and tough inside running.

Freeman McNeil will back up Thomas, while Johnny Hector will spell Baxter. They're both aging but still effective in limited roles.

RECEIVERS—Most teams would love to own the Jets' receiving corps. On one side, they have veteran Al Toon, a three-time Pro Bowl selection. On the other side, there's young Rob Moore. Toon and Moore are ideal complements. Toon is the quintessential possession receiver, while Moore stretches defenses with his big-play ability.

Coslet likes to use three- and four-receiver formations, so Terance Mathis and Chris Burkett will continue to see a lot of playing time. Burkett doesn't have breakaway speed, but he's a crafty veteran who can make the tough catch. Mathis is the smurf of the group, but he makes some big third-down catches. Dale Dawkins will battle JoJo Townsell for the fifth spot.

At tight end, the Jets lack a downfield receiving threat. Mark Boyer is a good blocker, but he's slow. Two young players, Pat Kelly and Doug Wellsandt, could emerge as factors.

LINEMEN—Run-blocking shouldn't be a problem for the Jets, but shaky pass protection will restrict the offense, meaning all that talent at receiver will go to waste.

The interior line has potential, with center Jim Sweeney flanked by guards Dave Cadigan (recovered from knee surgery) and Mike Haight. Dwayne White, a talented-but-overweight guard, could unseat Haight.

On the outside, however, the Jets have problems. They need dependable tackles. Steinberg, sensing the void, traded for veterans Irv Eatman and Ron Mattes in the off-season. Eatman probably will start at right tackle, while Mattes will challenge incumbent Jeff Criswell on the left side.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—An effort was made in the off-season to upgrade the size of the line, which got pushed around last season and allowed a league-high 4.8 yards per rush. The Jets hope Plan B signees Bill Pickel and John Bosa help stem the opposition's tide.

Despite the additions, the Jets still lack a dominant lineman. The best of

the group is Dennis Byrd, a quick tackle with pass-rushing skills who had 13 sacks last season.

Aside from Byrd, no one else showed much last year. Former linebacker Jeff Lageman struggled at end. The Jets need him to become more of a pass-rushing threat in order for the defense to improve.

Gerald Nichols and Scott Mersereau will battle Pickel for playing time at tackle. Bosa and Marvin Washington will probably split time at left end. Rookie Mark Gunn will make some noise at tackle. The sleeper of the group is end Darrell Davis, who recorded five sacks in limited duty.

LINEBACKERS—If the stopwatch means anything, the Jets should be improved in this area. The overall speed is much better than a year ago, but the Jets still don't have an impact linebacker, a legitimate pass rusher or a big-time run-stuffer.

Middle linebacker Kyle Clifton has a heart the size of his native Texas, but not enough athletic ability to be a force.

Clifton is flanked by Joe Kelly and Joe Mott. Kelly is a good athlete who should make more tackles than he does. Mott has the size to play over the tight end, but he's not adept at pass coverage.

Mott could be replaced by rookie Mo Lewis. Troy Johnson and swift Plan B signee Bobby Houston also could be factors.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—If free safety Erik McMillan can revert to past form, the Jets will have the makings of a decent secondary. After going to the Pro Bowl in his first two seasons, McMillan tailed off dramatically last year. He appeared confused in the new defensive scheme at times, and he missed far too many tackles.

Incumbent Brian Washington has the inside track on the strong safety job, but he's not untouchable. Washington will be challenged by Travis Curtis and rookie Tim James.

The Jets are solid at cornerback with Tony Stargell and James Hasty, and they added depth by signing Plan B free agent Mike Brim.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Pat Leahy, 40, is one of the most amazing stories in the league. He enjoyed one of his best seasons last year, making 32 of 32 extra points and 23 of 26 field goals. Leahy, the league's seventh all-time leading scorer, needs only 20 points to move into the No. 4 spot.

The Jets wish they had a punter with Leahy's consistency. Joe Prokop, who averaged 40.1 yards per boot in '90, has a strong leg but is erratic.

Townsell and Mathis give the Jets two solid punt returners. What New York needs is a dangerous kickoff returner. Mathis handled most of the work last season, but he lacks ideal speed.



1991 NEW YORK JETS ROSTER

	HT./WT.	Born	NFL Exp.	College	How acq.	'90 Games GP/GS
QUARTERBACKS						
Nagle, Browning	6-3/225	4-29-68	R	Louisville	D2/91	—
O'Brien, Ken	6-4/212	11-27-60	9	UC Davis	D1/83	16/16
Schonert, Turk	6-1/195	1-15-57	9	Stanford	FA/91	0/0
Taylor, Troy	6-4/200	4-5-68	1	California	D4/90	2/0
RUNNING BACKS						
Baker, Al	6-0/225	4-2-68	R	Kentucky	D10/91	—
Baxter, Brad	6-1/235	5-5-67	2	Alabama State	FA/89	16/9
Brown, A.B.	5-9/215	12-4-65	3	West Virginia	D8/89	1/0
Bryant, Blaise	5-11/201	11-23-69	R	Iowa State	D6/91	—
Egu, Patrick	5-11/206	2-20-67	2	Nevada	PlanB/90	IR
Hector, Johnny	5-11/207	11-26-60	9	Texas A&M	D2/83	15/4
McNeil, Freeman	5-11/208	4-22-59	11	UCLA	D1/81	16/4
Thomas, Blair	5-10/195	10-7-67	2	Penn State	D1/90	15/11
RECEIVERS						
Bell, Grantis (KR)	5-9/156	8-11-66	1	West Virginia	FA/90	0/0
Boyer, Mark (TE)	6-4/242	9-16-62	7	Southern California	PlanB/90	16/16
Burkett, Chris	6-4/200	8-21-62	7	Jackson State	FA/89	16/4
Dawkins, Dale	6-1/190	10-30-66	2	Miami (Fla.)	D9/90	11/0
Dressel, Chris (TE)	6-4/239	2-7-61	7	Stanford	W-KC/89	15/4
Kelly, Pat (TE)	6-6/252	10-29-65	4	Syracuse	PlanB/90	1/0
Mathis, Terance (KR/PR)	5-10/170	6-7-67	2	New Mexico	D6/90	16/1
Moore, Rob	6-3/205	9-27-68	2	Syracuse	SupD1/90	15/13
Toon, Al	6-4/205	4-30-63	7	Wisconsin	D1/85	14/12
Townsell, JoJo (KR/PR)	5-9/182	11-4-60	7	UCLA	D3/83	9/0
Wellsandt, Doug (TE)	6-3/248	2-9-67	2	Washington State	W-Cin/90	16/2
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Cadigan, Dave (G/T)	6-4/285	4-6-65	4	Southern California	D1/88	5/5
Criswell, Jeff (T)	6-7/291	3-7-64	5	Graceland (Ia.)	FA/88	16/16
Duffy, Roger (C)	6-3/285	7-16-67	2	Penn State	D8/90	16/2
Eatman, Irv (T)	6-7/298	1-1-61	6	UCLA	T-KC/91	*12/0
Haight, Mike (G)	6-4/279	10-6-62	6	Iowa	D1/86	14/14
Hayes, Mark (T)	6-6/295	6-19-68	R	Arizona State	D12/91	—
Match, Trevor	6-4/282	10-9-61	7	Brigham Young	PlanB/90	16/6
Mattes, Ron (T)	6-6/302	8-8-63	5	Virginia	T-Sea/91	*15/7
Miller, Brett (T)	6-7/293	10-2-58	9	Iowa	PlanB/90	16/16
Sweeney, Jim (C/G)	6-4/275	8-8-62	8	Pittsburgh	D2a/84	16/16
White, Dwayne (G)	6-2/312	2-10-67	2	Alcorn State	D7a/90	11/5
Zawatson, Dave (G/T)	6-5/287	4-13-66	3	California	PlanB/90	16/0
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Bosa, John (E)	6-4/275	1-10-64	5	Boston College	PlanB/91	IR
Byrd, Dennis (T)	6-5/270	10-5-66	3	Tulsa	D2/89	16/16
Davis, Darrell (E)	6-2/258	3-10-66	2	Texas Christian	D12/90	15/0
Frase, Paul (T)	6-5/260	5-5-65	3	Syracuse	D6/88	0/0
Glonek, Paul (T)	6-5/280	12-14-67	R	Arizona	D9/91	—
Gunn, Mark (T)	6-5/285	7-24-68	R	Pittsburgh	D4/91	—
Lageman, Jeff (E)	6-5/255	7-18-67	3	Virginia	D1/89	16/16
McNeil, Emanuel (T)	6-3/277	6-9-67	1	UT-Martin	PlanB/90	2/0
Mersereau, Scott (T)	6-3/273	4-8-65	5	Southern Connecticut State	FA/87	16/16
Nichols, Gerald (T/E)	6-2/260	2-10-64	5	Florida State	D7/87	15/0
Pickel, Bill (T)	6-5/260	11-5-59	9	Rutgers	PlanB/91	*14/3
Washington, Marvin (E/T)	6-6/276	10-22-65	3	Idaho	D6a/89	16/0
LINEBACKERS						
Clifton, Kyle	6-4/236	8-23-62	8	Texas Christian	D3/84	16/16
Galvin, John	6-3/230	7-9-65	4	Boston College	W-Min/90	16/0
Houston, Bobby	6-2/235	10-26-67	1	North Carolina State	PlanB/91	*1/0
Johnson, Troy	6-2/236	11-10-64	4	Oklahoma	W-Chi/90	16/4
Keeton, Rocen	6-3/245	5-31-68	R	UCLA	D11/91	—
Kelly, Joe	6-2/235	12-11-64	6	Washington	T-Cin/90	12/12
Levelis, John	6-2/232	4-19-67	1	C.W. Post (N.Y.)	T-SF/91	0/0
Lewis, Mo	6-4/240	10-21-69	R	Georgia	D3/91	—
Mott, Joe	6-4/243	10-6-65	3	Iowa	D3/89	16/14
Stephens, Mac	6-3/220	1-20-68	2	Minnesota	FA/90	4/0
DEFENSIVE BACKS						
Brim, Mike (CB)	6-0/188	1-23-66	4	Virginia Union	PlanB/91	*16/3
Curtis, Travis (S)	5-10/180	9-27-65	5	West Virginia	PlanB/90	14/3
Hasty, James (CB)	6-0/201	5-23-65	4	Washington State	D3b/88	16/16
James, Tim (S)	6-1/210	12-11-67	R	Colorado	D8/91	—
Johnson, Kenneth (S)	6-2/208	9-14-66	2	Florida A&M	FA/90	*8/0
Kors, R.J. (S)	6-0/195	6-27-66	1	Long Beach State	PlanB/91	IR
Mayes, Mike (CB)	5-10/173	8-17-66	2	Louisiana State	FA/90	16/2
McMillan, Erik (S)	6-2/200	5-3-65	4	Missouri	D3a/88	16/16
Odegard, Don (CB/PR)	6-0/180	11-22-66	2	UNLV	FA/90	14/0
Parrish, Doug (CB/KR)	6-0/200	2-25-68	R	San Francisco State	D7/91	—
Price, Dennis (S)	6-1/175	6-14-65	3	UCLA	T-Rai/90	0/0
Riley, Mike (CB)	5-11/175	3-30-68	R	Tulane	D6a/91	—
Stargell, Tony (CB)	5-11/190	8-7-66	2	Tennessee State	D3/90	16/16
Washington, Brian (S)	6-1/220	9-10-65	3	Nebraska	W-Cle/89	14/12
SPECIALISTS						
Leahy, Pat (K)	6-0/200	3-19-51	18	St. Louis	FA/74	16/0
Prokop, Joe (P)	6-2/225	7-7-60	6	Cal Poly Pomona	FA/88	16/0
OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP						
Pete Balistrieri, WR; Kip Beach, T; Chris Goetz, G; Bruce Holmes, LB; Rick Isaiah, WR; Pepper Jenkins, LB; Leroy Kinard, RB; Phil Logan, WR; Reggie Moore, WR; Jim Scully, LB; Matt Swinson, TE; Ron Young, WR.						

*Not with Jets in 1990.

†Includes totals with both Jets and another NFL team in 1990.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

Bengals have promise, if they keep their promise

By JACK BRENNAN
Cincinnati Enquirer

Everyone has heard these three famous false promises:

- The check's in the mail.
- It'll be repaired by tomorrow.
- I'll call you back in 10 minutes.

But in southwest Ohio, there's a fourth.

● The Cincinnati Bengals will have a much improved defense this season.

Cincinnati fans have been hearing that one since the winter of 1985, after Coach Sam Wyche's first year on the job. They're still waiting for that promise to be fulfilled.

Annually, Wyche's Bengals have fielded championship-quality offenses, only to have them undermined by a defense that was average at best. Even during the 1988 season, when Cincinnati went to the Super Bowl, its defense ranked in the bottom half of the National Football League in yards allowed.

Even last year, when the Bengals finished 9-7 and managed only their second playoff berth in Wyche's seven seasons, the lineup imbalance again was acute. Cincinnati ranked seventh in scoring and ninth in total offense, but 19th in scoring defense and 25th in total defense.

Two statistics from the defensive side were particularly discouraging. The Bengals allowed 4.7 yards per rush, the second-most generous average in



Still going strong: James Brooks became the Bengals' all-time leading rusher last year, and he could put that record out of sight before he's through.

the league, and recorded only 25 sacks, the lowest total in the NFL.

"The facts are there," Wyche said. "Relative to other defenses, we haven't

been very good, and we can't continue to be that way. It's time to bring new people in, and if our veterans don't up the standards, they lose their jobs."

Indeed, Bengals fans at least can take heart in the fact that since the 1990 season concluded, club officials' criticism of the defense has been more blunt than ever.

"Defense has held us back," General Manager Paul Brown said. "There's no denying it."

And short of attempting a major trade, which simply isn't their style, the Bengals are doing what they can to draft their way to defensive respectability.

After using their top 1990 draft pick to nab linebacker James Francis, who showed Pro Bowl potential as a rookie, Cincinnati selected Colorado linebacker Alfred Williams, a possible Francis clone. For only the fourth time in club history, the Bengals used their first three picks on defensive players.

At least they're trying.

COACHING

Last season, Wyche surpassed Paul Brown as the winningest coach in Bengals history. He owns a 61-55 record (including playoffs) in seven seasons and, remarkably, he is the fourth-youngest head coach in the NFL.

Wyche is widely regarded as an expert in offensive strategy and a players' coach who does a good job maintaining harmony without losing respect. But the 46-year-old Wyche also is among the

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: The Bengals still have the tools for an explosive offense. If everyone is healthy, there's no part of the offense that could be considered weak.

Weaknesses: Linebacker James Francis became an impact player in the defensive front seven last year as a rookie, but this defense needs two or three more of his kind. Barring stupendous results from the draft, those players don't figure to emerge in 1991.

Key to success: Though the Bengals ranked last in the league in sacks in 1990, their primary key is stopping the run. If they stop the run on first down, their pass rushers will have a chance to be more effective.

Sure sign of trouble: A poor start. Cincinnati's schedule is tough overall, but September looks like the easiest month.

That's a fact: In six of the last seven seasons, the Bengals have ranked 22nd or worse in average yards allowed per rush.

Coach Sam Wyche says: "For us to be where we want to be, (first-round draft pick) Alfred Williams has got to come in right away and play dynamite football."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Brown	James	Smith
LT	Munoz	Scraftford	Crigler
LG	Reimers	Jetton	Crigler
C	Kozerski	Jetton	Arthur
RG	Moyer	Blados	Brennan
RT	Walter	Moyer	Scraftford
WR	McGee	Barber	Rembert
TE	Holman	Riggs	Kattus
QB	Esiason	Wilhelm	Hollas
HB	Brooks	Green	Jennings
FB	Woods	Taylor	Ball

DEFENSE

LE	Rogers	McClendon	Dahl
NT	Krumrie	Vincic	Grant
RE	Grant	Tuatagaloa	Buck
LOLB	Gordon	White	Brady
LILB	Walker	Clark	Brady
RILB	Francis	Zander	Barker
ROLB	Williams	Ogletree	Barker
LCB	Billups	Jones	Fain
RCB	Thomas	Carter	Price
SS	Fulcher	Vinson	
FS	Bussey	Dixon	

SPECIALISTS

K	Breech	Johnson	
P	Johnson	Breech	
KR	Jennings	Ball	Price
PR	Price	Smith	Brooks

league's most controversial figures. Sometimes it seems he goes out of his way to create trouble. And entering the 1991 season, his quarterback has challenged him to cut out the sideshows.

"There has been a lot of stuff swirling around this team the last couple years," Boomer Esiason said. "There's been women in the locker room, the fine from the commissioner, the 'you-don't-live-in-Cleveland' thing, the shutting out of all the press after that loss to Seattle, the running-up-the-score feud with Jerry Glanville. . . ."

Wyche, of course, was at the center of each of those controversies.

"What this team needs is a focused leader," Esiason said, "a coach who'll direct his energies to talking football and football only. Everybody in the place will jump on the bandwagon if he sets that tone."

But Wyche has refused to admit he needs to change.

"There's no change in this coach," he said in response to Esiason's comments. "I'll continue to speak out when I believe it's important. If I'm a distraction . . . the player who's distracted isn't professional enough to be here."

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—Esiason has the stature in Cincinnati to warn his head coach about distractions and get away with it. But Esiason needs to make some changes himself in 1991.

Esiason had been justifiably proud of his skill at avoiding interceptions in previous seasons, but he threw 22 of them last year, only two fewer than his number of touchdown passes.

Esiason simply didn't have a good year throwing the ball, finishing 17th among NFL quarterbacks in passing rating. Rumors persist that he has an arm problem, but there's no real evidence of that. Most of his errant balls were overthrown, not underthrown. It's critical to the Bengals for Esiason to regain his 1988 and '89 form.

Third-year man Erik Wilhelm is Esiason's backup. He has appeared capable in limited opportunities the last two years. Donald Hollas, a fourth-round draft pick from Rice, leads the race for the third-string job.

RUNNING BACKS—James Brooks is 32, which borders on old age for most running backs. But Brooks, one of the toughest, most finely conditioned athletes in the game, is a notable exception. His 1,004 yards rushing in a Pro Bowl 1990 season pushed him past Pete Johnson for the club's all-time rushing lead, and he could put that record out of sight before he's through.

Brooks is the only sure thing among the running backs, but the Bengals have enough depth to feel assured that someone else could rise to the occasion should Brooks falter.

Fullback Ickey Woods still wasn't 100 percent last year following a 1989 knee injury, but it was expected all along

1991 CINCINNATI BENGALS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL Exp.	College	How acq.	'90 Games GP/GS
Esiason, Boomer	6-5/220	4-17-61	8	Maryland	D2/84	16/16
Hollas, Donald	6-3/215	11-22-67	R	Rice	D4/91	—
Wilhelm, Erik	6-3/217	11-19-65	3	Oregon State	D3/89	7/0
RUNNING BACKS						
Ball, Eric (FB/KR)	6-2/214	7-1-66	3	UCLA	D2/89	13/1
Brooks, James (PR)	5-10/182	12-28-58	11	Auburn	T-SD/84	16/15
Dingle, Mike (FB)	6-2/240	1-30-69	R	South Carolina	D8/91	—
Green, Harold	6-2/222	1-29-68	2	South Carolina	D2/90	12/9
Jennings, Stanford (KR)	6-1/212	3-12-62	8	Furman	D3/84	16/0
Taylor, Craig (FB)	6-0/228	1-3-66	3	West Virginia	D6/89	12/1
Woods, Ickey (FB)	6-2/232	2-28-66	4	UNLV	D2/89	10/6
RECEIVERS						
Barber, Mike	5-11/172	6-19-67	3	Marshall	FA/90	16/1
Brown, Eddie	6-0/185	12-17-62	7	Miami (Fla.)	D1/85	14/12
Carpenter, Rob	6-2/215	8-1-68	R	Syracuse	D4a/91	—
Garrett, Shane	5-11/185	11-16-67	R	Texas A&M	D9/91	—
Holman, Rodney (TE)	6-3/238	4-20-60	9	Tulane	D3/82	16/15
James, Lynn	6-0/191	1-25-67	2	Arizona State	D5/90	11/0
Kattus, Eric (TE)	6-5/251	3-4-63	6	Michigan	D4/86	16/3
McGee, Tim	5-10/183	8-7-64	6	Tennessee	D1a/86	16/15
Rembert, Reggie	6-5/200	12-25-66	1	West Virginia	T-NYJ/90	IR
Riggs, Jim (TE)	6-5/245	9-29-63	5	Clemson	D4/87	16/0
Smith, Chris (TE)	6-3/236	6-27-66	R	Brigham Young	D11/91	—
Smith, Kendall	5-10/189	11-23-65	3	Utah State	D6/89	9/2
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Arthur, Mike (C)	6-3/271	5-7-68	R	Texas A&M	D5/91	—
Blados, Brian (G)	6-5/296	1-11-62	8	North Carolina	D1b/84	4/4
Brennan, Mike (G)	6-5/274	3-22-67	2	Notre Dame	D4/90	16/0
Crigler, Eric (T)	6-5/295	6-3-67	1	Murray State	D10/90	0/0
Jetton, Paul (C/G)	6-4/288	10-6-64	3	Texas	D6/88	15/0
Kozerski, Bruce (C)	6-4/287	4-2-62	8	Holy Cross	D9/84	16/16
Lavin, Jim (G)	6-3/282	12-25-68	R	Georgia Tech	D10/91	—
Moyer, Ken (G/T)	6-7/297	11-19-66	3	Toledo	FA/89	16/16
Munoz, Anthony (T)	6-6/284	8-19-58	12	Southern California	D1/80	16/16
Reimers, Bruce (G)	6-7/298	9-18-60	8	Iowa State	D8/84	12/12
Scraftford, Kirk (T)	6-6/255	3-16-67	2	Montana	FA/90	2/0
Walter, Joe (T)	6-7/292	6-18-63	7	Texas Tech	D7a/85	16/16
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Buck, Jason (E)	6-5/264	7-27-63	5	Brigham Young	D1/87	16/6
Dahl, Bob (E)	6-5/290	11-5-68	R	Notre Dame	D3/91	—
Grant, David (E)	6-5/278	9-17-65	4	West Virginia	D4/88	16/9
Krumrie, Tim (NT)	6-2/274	5-20-60	9	Wisconsin	D10/83	16/15
McClendon, Skip (E)	6-7/287	4-9-64	5	Arizona	D3a/87	15/13
Rogers, Lamar (E)	6-4/290	11-5-67	R	Auburn	D2/91	—
Stewart, Andrew (E)	6-5/265	11-20-65	2	Cincinnati	FA/91	0/0
Tuatagaloa, Natu (E)	6-4/274	5-25-66	3	California	D5/89	16/7
LINEBACKERS						
Barker, Leo	6-2/230	11-7-59	8	New Mexico State	D7/84	14/1
Brady, Ed	6-2/236	6-17-60	8	Illinois	FA/86	16/0
Clark, Bernard	6-2/248	1-12-67	2	Miami (Fla.)	D3/90	14/0
Francis, James	6-5/252	8-4-68	2	Baylor	D1/90	16/16
Gordon, Alex	6-5/245	9-14-64	5	Cincinnati	PlanB/91	*10/0
Ogletree, Craig	6-2/236	4-2-68	2	Auburn	D7/90	11/0
Walker, Kevin	6-3/244	12-24-65	4	Maryland	D3/88	16/15
White, Leon	6-3/242	10-4-63	6	Brigham Young	D5/86	16/13
Williams, Alfred	6-6/240	11-6-68	R	Colorado	D1/91	—
Zander, Carl	6-2/235	3-23-63	7	Tennessee	D2/85	16/13
DEFENSIVE BACKS						
Bennett, Antoine (CB)	5-11/185	11-29-67	R	Florida A&M	D12/91	—
Billups, Lewis (CB)	5-11/182	10-10-63	6	North Alabama	D2/86	15/14
Bussey, Barney (S)	6-0/210	5-20-62	6	South Carolina State	D5/84	16/5
Carter, Carl (CB)	5-11/180	3-7-64	6	Texas Tech	T-Pho/90	15/11
Dixon, Rickey (S)	5-11/191	12-26-66	4	Oklahoma	D1/88	13/5
Fain, Richard (CB)	5-10/183	2-29-68	R	Florida	D6/91	—
Fulcher, David (S)	6-3/238	9-28-64	6	Arizona State	D3b/86	13/12
Jones, Rod (CB)	6-0/185	3-31-64	6	Southern Methodist	T-TB/90	16/6
Price, Mitchell (CB/KR/PR)	5-9/181	5-10-67	2	Tulane	D9/90	16/1
Thomas, Eric (CB)	5-11/181	9-11-64	5	Tulane	D2/87	4/2
Vinson, Ferdinand (S)	5-10/197	11-3-68	R	North Carolina State	D7/91	—
SPECIALISTS						
Breach, Jim (K)	5-6/161	4-11-56	13	California	FA/89	16/0
Johnson, Lee (P)	6-2/200	11-27-61	7	Brigham Young	FA/88	16/0

OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP
Dennis Arey, WR; Howard Dell, WR; Jerry Jones, WR; John Langeloh, K; Ken McKay, TE; David Sencyszyn, G; Chris Swartz, QB; Rick Trumbull, T; Travis Vallin, WR; Branko Vincic, NT; Melvin Waters, RB.

*Not with Bengals in 1990.
Key to abbreviations on page 160.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that the Bengals have scored more points (1,212) in the last three seasons than any other NFL team?

Continued

COACHES

Head coach: Sam Wyche.

Assistant coaches:

Jim Anderson (running backs).
Dana Bible (quarterbacks).
Marv Braden (special teams).
Dick LeBeau (defensive coordinator).
Jim McNally (offensive line).
Dick Selcer (linebackers).
David Shula (receivers).
Mike Stock (tight ends).
Chuck Studley (defensive line).
Kim Wood (strength).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1990 regular-season record: 9-7 (1st in AFC Central); 5-1 in division; 8-4 in conference; 5-3 at home; 4-4 on road.

1990 playoff record: Defeated Oilers, 41-14, in AFC first-round wild-card game; lost to Raiders, 20-10, in AFC divisional playoff game.

Wyche's regular-season record: 58-53 in seven seasons with Bengals.

Wyche's postseason record: 3-2 in two playoffs with Bengals (0-1 in Super Bowl).

Team record last five years: 43-36 (.544, ranks 12th in league in that span).

1990 team rankings:	AFC	NFL
Total offense.....	5	9
Rushing offense.....	3	5
Passing offense.....	7	15
Scoring offense.....	4	7
Total defense.....	12	25
Rushing defense.....	11	22
Passing defense.....	14	26
Scoring defense.....	10	19
Takeaways.....	6	T13
Giveaways.....	10	18
Turnover differential.....	9	T18
Sacks.....	14	28
Sacks allowed.....	T6	T10

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

Stadium (capacity): Riverfront Stadium (59,755).

Ticket information: 513-621-3550.

Flagship radio station: WKRC, 550 AM.

Training site: Wilmington College, Wilmington, O.; 513-621-3550.

1991 SCHEDULE

Sept. 1—at Denver	2:00
Sept. 8—HOUSTON	8:00
Sept. 15—at Cleveland	1:00
Sept. 22—WASHINGTON	1:00
Sept. 29—Open date	
Oct. 6—SEATTLE	1:00
Oct. 13—at Dallas	12:00
Oct. 21—at Buffalo (Mon.)	9:00
Oct. 27—at Houston	12:00
Nov. 3—CLEVELAND	1:00
Nov. 10—PITTSBURGH	1:00
Nov. 17—at Philadelphia	1:00
Nov. 24—L.A. RAIDERS	1:00
Dec. 1—N.Y. GIANTS	4:00
Dec. 9—at Miami (Mon.)	9:00
Dec. 15—at Pittsburgh	1:00
Dec. 22—NEW ENGLAND	1:00

All times local. All games Sunday unless noted.

1990 RESULTS

Sept. 9—N.Y. JETS	25-20
Sept. 16—at San Diego	21-16
Sept. 23—NEW ENGLAND	41-7
Oct. 1—at Seattle	16-31
Oct. 7—at L.A. Rams (OT)	34-31
Oct. 14—at Houston	17-48
Oct. 22—at Cleveland	34-13
Oct. 28—at Atlanta	17-38
Nov. 4—NEW ORLEANS	7-21
Nov. 11—Open date	
Nov. 18—PITTSBURGH	27-3
Nov. 25—INDIANAPOLIS	20-34
Dec. 2—at Pittsburgh	16-12
Dec. 9—SAN FRANCISCO (OT)	17-20
Dec. 16—at L.A. Raiders	7-24
Dec. 23—HOUSTON	40-20
Dec. 30—CLEVELAND	21-14

1990 LEADERS

Scoring (kicking): Jim Breech, 92 pts. (41/44 PATs, 17/21 FGs).

Scoring (touchdowns): James Brooks, 54 pts. (5 rushing, 4 receiving); Eddie Brown, 54 pts. (9 receiving).

Passing: Boomer Esiason, 3,031 yds. (402 att., 224 comp., 55.7%, 24 TDs, 22 int.).

Rushing: James Brooks, 1,004 yds. (195 att., 5.1 avg., 5 TDs).

Receptions: Eddie Brown, 44 (706 yds., 16.0 avg., 9 TDs).

Interceptions: Barney Bussey and David Fulcher, 4.

Tackles: James Francis, 78 (63 solo, 15 assisted).

Sacks: James Francis, 8 (65 yds.).

Punting: Lee Johnson, 42.3 avg. (64 punts).

Punt returns: Mitchell Price, 8.7 avg. (29 att., 1 TD).

Kickoff returns: Stanford Jennings, 20.1 avg.

1990 FANTASY STATISTICS

Statistics included for current members of 1991 roster only.

Name	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING				Defensive TDs	Total TDs
	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300+ yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100+ yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100+ yd. games	18-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs		
Ball	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Barber	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Breech	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	6	-	41	-	-
Brooks	-	-	-	-	3	1	1	3	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Brown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	9
Bussey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1
Esiason	8	12	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
Francis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1
Green	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Holman	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	5
Jennings	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Johnson	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Kattus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
McGee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Price	-	-	-	-	-	1*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Taylor	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Woods	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6

* fumble recovery. * interception. * punt return.



Fast healer: Cornerback Eric Thomas should be ready to recapture his Pro Bowl form this season.

that he wouldn't return to full form until 1991.

Brooks' backup, Harold Green, needs just a bit more toughness and consistency to prosper after a promising rookie year, while reserve fullback Eric Ball has shown improvement after a sluggish start to his pro career. Craig Taylor and Stanford Jennings also are capable NFL players.

RECEIVERS—The Bengals have one of the NFL's best starting duos in Eddie Brown and Tim McGee, but both mysteriously disappeared from the offense late last season. They finished almost 600 yards off their combined yardage total of 1989. But Wyche has blamed the team's offensive game plan rather than the two receivers. Getting Brown and McGee the ball more often, he has said, is the club's top offensive priority.

The depth at wide receiver is suspect. Journeyman Mike Barber enters training camp as the top reserve. Reggie Rembert and Lynn James, top physical talents, have been disappointments.

Rodney Holman finally has achieved recognition as the American Football Conference's best tight end. He's a superb blocker who has averaged more than 40 catches and over 600 yards the last three years. Jim Riggs and Eric Kattus are solid backups.

LINEMEN—Typically one of the best overall units in the league, the Cincinnati line faces question marks in 1991.

Can left guard Bruce Reimers overcome a troublesome foot injury? Can right tackle Joe Walter, seriously injured in 1988, regain his form as one of the league's top pass blockers? Can versatile guard Brian Blados overcome a career-threatening neck injury?

Despite those questions, there still are some answers. All-everything left

tackle Anthony Munoz had off-season shoulder surgery but appeared in excellent shape at mini-camp, and Bruce Kozerski is solid at center.

The Bengals have plenty of capable reserves, but their depth at tackle is suspect. Cincinnati will depend on Kirk Scrafford, a 1990 free agent, to fill any needs at tackle. The Bengals are counting on guard Ken Moyer to start for Blados if he fails to rebound from his injury.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—The Bengals will continue to play a combination of three- and four-man lines, but regardless of the alignment, mediocrity will still abound.

Nose tackle Tim Krumrie is no longer the player he was before suffering a broken leg in Super Bowl XXIII. Big David Grant didn't continue developing as the coaching staff had hoped in 1990, and fellow ends Jason Buck and Skip McClendon scare no one.

Third-year end Natu Tuatagaloa showed promise by recording 4½ sacks, but the Bengals have made it clear that second-round draft pick Lamar Rogers of Auburn is expected to earn a starting job. Rogers can play nose or tackle in a four-man line. End Bob Dahl, Cincinnati's third-round pick, also will have every opportunity

to play immediately.

LINEBACKERS—Francis lent glamour to a lackluster group in 1990. His eight sacks represented almost one-third of the team total.

The Bengals are counting on significant help from more new blood this season. If Williams proves good enough to play in Francis' outside linebacker spot, Francis will be moved inside. He can still rush the passer from the inside, and his 252-pound frame will bolster the run defense.

The coaching staff thinks it may have a steal in Alex Gordon, a Plan B pickup from the Los Angeles Raiders. He'll challenge Leon White for the other outside position.

Kevin Walker is the top candidate for the other inside job. Veterans Carl Zander, Leo Barker, Bernard Clark, Craig Ogletree and Ed Brady will fight for roster spots.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—This is still the strength of the defense. David Fulcher remains among the NFL's elite strong safeties, and cornerback Eric Thomas should be ready to recapture Pro Bowl form this season. Thomas suffered a serious knee injury in a pickup basketball game before the 1990 season but made a splendid recovery and was playing well by season's end.

Barney Bussey, formerly Fulcher's

backup at strong safety, has played so well that he figures to be the starting free safety this season.

Cornerback Lewis Billups, who served a brief jail sentence earlier this year for irresponsible gunplay, was only average in '90. He didn't attend mini-camp, so his position has been declared wide open. Rod Jones, Carl Carter and several rookies will jockey for the job.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Veteran special-teams assistant Marv Braden was hired to coach the Bengals' units in 1990, and he got some results.

After years of horrendous overall play, Cincinnati improved to almost average in '91. The Bengals still ranked poorly in covering kickoffs (26th in the NFL) and punts (23rd), but their return teams are on the rise. Jennings and Ball are both good kickoff returners, while Mitchell Price gives the Bengals a steady punt returner.

In Jim Breech, Cincinnati has perhaps the league's best short- to medium-range field-goal kicker. Punter Lee Johnson is solid, plus he fills in for Breech on extra-long field-goal attempts.



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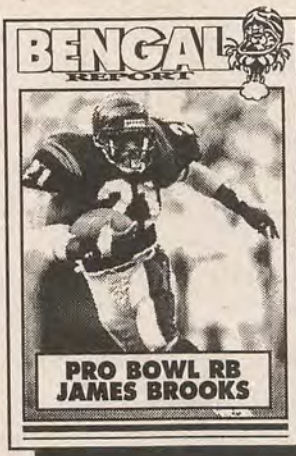
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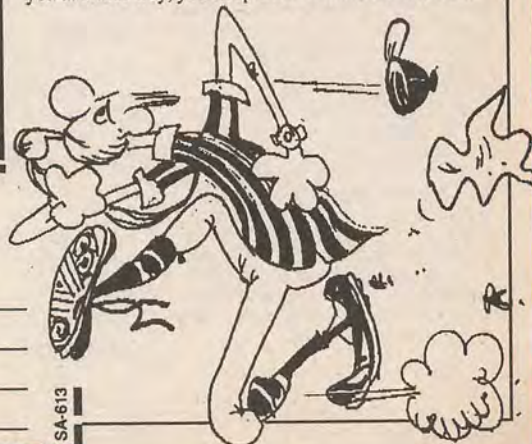
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Hard-working Belichick takes over in Cleveland

By JEFF SCHUDEL
News-Herald

New Cleveland Coach Bill Belichick, the man expected to raise the 3-13 Browns from the dead, should start with an easier miracle—like turning Lake Erie water into wine.

The 1990 season was the worst in the Browns' history. They set team records for most losses, fewest points scored in a 16-game season (228), most points against (462) and most times shut out (three), among others.

Humiliated, Browns Owner Art Modell set out to find a coach to lead the Browns out of the abyss. He settled on Belichick, the former defensive coordinator of the New York Giants whose team allowed the fewest points (211) in 1990 and slowed Buffalo enough to win Super Bowl XXV, 20-19, after stopping Chicago and San Francisco in the playoffs.

"I've never been around a coach who works as hard as Bill has since he's gotten here," Modell said. "He spent 15 hours interviewing the offensive line coach. He's usually the first one in the office and the last one to leave. I'm glad I'm paying him a salary and not by the hour."

The 39-year-old Belichick became the youngest coach in the National Football League when he inked a five-year, \$2.5 million contract to resurrect the once-proud Browns. No other first-year coach had ever been given a five-year



Big Mack attack: Kevin Mack, who accounted for 58 percent of the Browns' ground game in 1990, fits perfectly into the mold of a Bill Belichick power back.

deal by Modell.

"Prior to taking this job, I sat down with Art and (Executive Vice President) Ernie Accorsi, and we talked a lot about building a team and how the game should be played," Belichick said. "We talked about the 1990 Browns, not so much where they were, but where they need to be to be a championship team. Wherever they were on that

path, they weren't on a championship level. In order to get to that level, certain things had to be put in place through Plan B and the draft. We might have made some mistakes, but I think we're a better team than when I got here in February."

In a sentence, Belichick believes in building a team from the middle of the field out to the sideline, figuring the closer a player is to the middle, the more plays he'll be involved in. Others in the organization might have loftier titles, but Belichick is in command. He left his stamp on the 1991 draft when the Browns took a safety, four defensive linemen and two offensive linemen with seven of their 11 picks.

COACHING

Belichick put together a staff of virtual unknowns, but he's confident in them nonetheless. The key to the staff is offensive line coach Hal Hunter, a holdover from former coach Bud Carson's staff.

Defensive coordinator Nick Saban, who was the head coach at Toledo when Belichick called, coached the Houston Oilers' secondary in 1988 and '89. That's the limit of his NFL experience. Quarterbacks coach Gary Tranquill has coached in the college ranks for 28 years, but never in the NFL. Only time will tell whether those two and the rest of Belichick's staff will adjust to the pressure of the NFL. One thing is certain: Belichick will be a hands-on coach.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—Bernie Kosar is battered and scarred beyond his six NFL seasons, but if he gets time to throw, he still can be among the best quarterbacks in the league. In the aber-

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: Kevin Mack is man enough to carry the offense on his broad shoulders and the receivers are solid, if not fast. The biggest plus is Bill Belichick as head coach instead of Bud Carson.

Weaknesses: The Browns still have no proven offensive tackles. Depth at line-backer is a huge question mark, and a secondary that gave up 32 touchdowns can't be repaired in one draft.

Key to success: If the big, young defensive line comes together, many problems from last year could be eradicated. It will be a bonus if rookie Ed King can switch from guard to offensive tackle.

Sure sign of trouble: If Bernie Kosar goes down, a virtual rookie will replace him. The bomb raids will start on the secondary again if the defensive line fails to pressure opposing passers.

That's a fact: The Browns were outscored by 200 points in the first half last season—289-89. They lost their 13 games by an average of 18.3 points per game.

Coach Bill Belichick says: "It's vital that you implement a sound system and find the players to make it run effectively. Many coaches have made an error in adjusting too quickly to their personnel. Then somebody gets injured or retires, and suddenly the system, which you changed for him, doesn't work anymore."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Slaughter	Green	Oliphant
LT	Ton. Jones	Farren	Woods
LG	Farren	Tamm	Rienstra
C	Rakoczy	Baab	Tamm
RG	Rienstra	King	Tamm
RT	King	Woods	Ton. Jones
TE	Arbuckle	Galbraith	
WR	Langhorne	Jackson	Brennan
QB	Kosar	Philcox	Francis
HB	Metcalf	Hoard	Morris
FB	Mack	Hoard	Gainer

DEFENSE

LE	Burnett	Ja. Jones	Pleasant
LT	Ja. Jones	Sagapolutele	Burnett
RT	Perry	Conover	Gibson
RE	Pleasant	Weston	Burnett
LLB	Walters	Grayson	Matthews
ILB	M. Johnson	Jo. Jones	Grayson
RLB	Matthews	Walters	Brandon
LCB	Minnifield	Blaylock	Irvin
RCB	Harper	Blaylock	Braggs
SS	Gash	Barnett	Braggs
FS	Turner	Gash	Braggs

SPECIALISTS

K	Stover	Greenfield
P	Greenfield	Stover
KR	Metcalf	Oliphant
PR	Oliphant	Metcalf
		Gainer

ration that was 1990, Kosar threw 10 touchdown passes and a career-high 15 interceptions—the first time in his pro career he had ever thrown more interceptions than touchdowns.

Kosar's critics are multiplying, and fans who once adored him are backing off a step. But management thought enough of him to dump backup Mike Pagel, who started three games last year and was shut out twice.

Heading into training camp, Kosar's backups are Todd Philcox, a Plan B signee from Cincinnati, and Jeff Francis. Together, Philcox and Francis have thrown four passes in the NFL.

A veteran could be picked off the scrap heap when other teams make cuts near the end of training camp, but it might not matter that much. Under Belichick, Cleveland will emphasize power football.

RUNNING BACKS—Only God knows where the Browns would have been without Kevin Mack in 1990. The full-back accounted for 58 percent of their ground game, gaining 702 of the Browns' 1,220 yards rushing (an all-time club low for a 16-game season). He caught 42 passes for another 360 yards.

Mack fits perfectly into the mold of a Belichick power back. He showed last year he can be durable and reliable, although he did fumble six times. (He recovered his own fumble on five occasions.)

Belichick must figure out what to do with scatback Eric Metcalf. Metcalf probably will play more wide receiver in 1991, though he'll line up in the backfield.

A player to watch closely is Joe Morris, who turns 31 in September. The Browns signed the Giants' all-time leading rusher as a free agent, hoping he still has something left after a two-year sabbatical.

This could be a last-chance season for immature Leroy Hoard, who sleeps in meetings when he isn't getting a traffic ticket.

RECEIVERS—Webster Slaughter, Reggie Langhorne and Brian Brennan would be good comrades in an alley fight, and they're just as tough going over the middle to catch a pass. But as a group, they are among the slowest receivers in the league.

A lack of speed at wide receiver is one reason the Browns scored only 13 passing touchdowns (27th in the league) in 1990. There are other reasons for the unit's lack of production, but at least speed is correctable. On that note, Cleveland drafted Michael Jackson in the sixth round on a recommendation from former Browns great Ozzie Newsome, a tight end turned talent scout. Jackson ran a 4.28-second 40-yard dash in a workout for Newsome.

Another player who figures into the receiving mix is former Cardinal Roy Green, who was acquired from Phoenix in June for an undisclosed draft pick.

1991 CLEVELAND BROWNS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	HI./WI.	Born	NFL Exp.	College	How acq.	'90 Games
Francis, Jeff	6-4/225	7-7-66	2	Tennessee	FA/90	1/0
Kosar, Bernie	6-5/215	11-25-63	7	Miami (Fla.)	SupD/85	13/13
Philcox, Todd	6-4/225	9-25-66	2	Syracuse	PlanB/91	*2/0
RUNNING BACKS						
Gainer, Derrick (PR)	5-11/235	8-15-66	2	Florida A&M	FA/90	16/1
Hoard, Leroy	5-11/230	5-5-68	2	Michigan	D2/90	14/5
Mack, Kevin (FB)	6-0/230	8-9-62	7	Clemson	SupD/84	14/14
Metcalf, Eric (KR/PR)	5-10/190	1-23-68	3	Texas	D1/89	16/10
Morris, Joe	5-7/195	9-15-60	9	Syracuse	FA/91	0/0
Rouson, Lee	6-1/222	10-18-62	7	Colorado	PlanB/91	*16/0
RECEIVERS						
Arbuckle, Charles (TE)	6-2/240	9-13-68	1	UCLA	PlanB/91	0/0
Brennan, Brian	5-10/185	2-15-62	8	Boston College	D4b/84	16/5
Dunn, K.D. (TE)	6-3/213	4-28-63	6	Clemson	FA/91	0/0
Galbraith, Scott (TE)	6-3/260	1-7-67	2	Southern California	D7/90	16/1
Green, Roy	6-0/197	6-30-57	13	Henderson State (Ark.)	T-Pho/91	*16/16
Jackson, Michael (KR)	6-4/195	4-12-69	R	Southern Mississippi	D6/91	—
Johnson, Flip	5-9/181	7-13-63	3	McNeese State	FA/91	0/0
Joines, Vernon	6-2/210	6-20-65	2	Maryland	FA/90	16/0
Langhorne, Reggie	6-2/205	4-7-63	7	Elizabeth City (N.C.) State	D7/85	12/11
Oliphant, Mike (KR/PR)	5-9/171	5-19-63	2	Puget Sound (Wash.)	T-Was/89	IR
Rowell, Eugene	6-1/180	6-12-68	2	Southern Mississippi	D9/90	3/0
Slaughter, Webster	6-1/170	10-19-64	6	San Diego State	D2/86	16/16
Talley, John (TE)	6-5/245	12-19-64	2	West Virginia	FA/90	14/2
Tillman, Lawyer	6-5/230	5-20-66	2	Auburn	D2/89	IR
Wiggins, Shawn	5-10/165	8-15-68	R	Wyoming	D9a/91	—
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Baab, Mike (C)	6-4/275	12-6-59	10	Texas	PlanB/90	16/16
Farren, Paul (T/G)	6-6/270	12-24-60	9	Boston University	D12/83	16/16
Fike, Dan (G)	6-7/285	6-16-61	7	Florida	FA/85	10/0
Jefferson, Ben (T)	6-9/330	1-15-66	2	Maryland	FA/90	4/4
Jones, Todd	6-3/297	7-3-67	R	Henderson State (Ark.)	D11/91	—
Jones, Tony (T)	6-5/290	5-24-66	4	Western Carolina	FA/88	16/16
King, Ed (T/G)	6-4/303	12-3-69	R	Auburn	D2/91	—
Morris, Mike (C)	6-5/285	2-22-61	4	Northeast Missouri State	FA/90	10/0
Rakoczy, Gregg (G/C)	6-5/295	5-18-65	5	Miami (Fla.)	D2/87	16/12
Reeves, Ken	6-5/277	10-4-61	7	Texas A&M	T-Phi/90	16/0
Rienstra, John (G)	6-5/275	3-22-63	6	Temple	PlanB/91	*6/3
Robbins, Kevin	6-6/295	12-12-67	2	Michigan State	FA/89	6/4
Tamm, Ralph (G/C)	6-4/280	3-11-66	2	West Chester	PlanB/90	16/12
Woods, Rob (T)	6-5/295	10-3-65	1	Arizona	PlanB/91	IR
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Austin, Elijah (T)	6-2/290	10-3-67	R	North Carolina State	D12/91	—
Burnett, Rob (E/T)	6-4/270	8-27-67	2	Syracuse	D5/90	16/6
Conover, Frank (T)	6-4/319	4-6-68	R	Syracuse	D8/91	—
Gibson, Tom (T)	6-8/275	12-20-63	3	Northern Arizona	PlanB/89	12/3
Jones, James (E/T)	6-2/294	2-6-69	R	Northern Iowa	D3/91	—
Perry, Michael Dean (T)	6-1/285	8-27-65	4	Clemson	D2/88	16/16
Pleasant, Anthony (E)	6-5/258	1-27-67	2	Tennessee State	D3/90	16/7
Sagapolutele, Pio (T)	6-6/297	11-28-69	R	San Diego State	D4/91	—
Sims, Darryl (E)	6-3/275	7-23-61	5	Wisconsin	FA/91	0/0
Weston, Rhondy (E)	6-5/280	6-7-66	2	Florida	PlanB/90	IR
LINEBACKERS						
Brandon, David	6-4/230	2-9-65	4	Memphis State	PlanB/91	IR
Brown, Richard	6-3/240	9-21-65	4	San Diego State	PlanB/91	*11/0
Grayson, David	6-3/230	2-27-64	5	Fresno State	FA/87	16/8
Johnson, Eddie	6-1/235	2-3-59	11	Louisville	D7/81	16/0
Johnson, Mike	6-1/230	11-26-62	6	Virginia Tech	SupD/84	16/15
Jones, Jock	6-2/230	3-13-68	2	Virginia Tech	D8/90	11/0
Matthews, Clay	6-2/245	3-15-56	14	Southern California	D1a/78	16/16
Walters, Van	6-4/250	2-27-65	4	Indiana	D3/88	16/6
DEFENSIVE BACKS						
Barnett, Harlon (S)	5-11/200	1-2-67	2	Michigan State	D4/90	6/0
Blaylock, Tony (CB)	5-11/190	2-21-65	4	Winston-Salem (N.C.) St.	D4/88	16/7
Briggs, Stephen (CB/S)	5-9/180	8-29-65	5	Texas	D6/87	15/2
Clayborn, Raymond (CB)	6-1/190	1-2-55	15	Texas	PlanB/90	16/16
Gash, Thane (S)	6-0/195	9-1-65	4	East Tennessee State	D7/88	16/16
Harper, Mark (CB)	5-9/185	11-5-61	6	Alcorn State	FA/86	5/2
Hilliard, Randy (CB)	5-11/160	6-2-67	2	Northwestern (La.) State	D6/90	15/0
Irvine, Ray (CB)	5-11/174	1-21-67	R	Central Florida	D9/91	—
Kramer, Kyle (S)	6-3/190	1-12-67	2	Bowling Green State	D5a/89	IR
Lyons, Robert (S)	6-2/200	5-16-66	2	Akron	FA/91	0/0
Minnifield, Frank (CB)	5-9/180	1-1-60	8	Louisville	FA/84	9/8
Newsome, Vince (S)	6-1/185	1-22-61	9	Washington	PlanB/91	*16/16
Turner, Eric (S)	6-0/210	9-20-68	R	UCLA	D1/91	—
SPECIALISTS						
Greenfield, Brian (P)	5-11/227	6-6-69	R	Pittsburgh	D10/91	—
Hansen, Brian (P)	6-4/220	10-18-60	7	Sioux Falls (S.D.)	PlanB/91	*16/0
Stover, Matt (K)	5-11/178	1-27-68	1	Louisiana Tech	PlanB/91	IR
OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP						
Nathaniel Bolton, WR; Terrill Chatman, T; Ed Cunningham, T; Ken Edelman, K; Theron Ellis, LB; Anthony Florence, CB; Dwayne Fontenette, LB; George Hawthorne, T; George Hemingway, FB; Archie Herring, RB; John Hines, DE; Ben Mitchell, G; Doug Moore, LB; Charlie Oliver, S; Michael Proctor, QB; Terrence Sanders, DL; Tyrone Shavers, WR; Billy Smith, P; Terrence Strong, RB; Marlin Williams, DE; Fred Word, RB.						

* Not with Browns in 1990.
Key to abbreviations on page 160.

Continued

COACHES

Head coach: Bill Belichick.
Assistant coaches:
 Ernie Adams (offensive assistant).
 Jim Bates (inside linebackers).
 Don Blackmon (outside linebackers).
 Steve Crosby (running backs).
 Hal Hunter (offensive line).
 Richard Mann (receivers).
 John Mitchell (defensive line).
 Scott O'Brien (special teams).
 Nick Saban (defensive coordinator).
 Phil Savage (assistant).
 Jerry Simmons (strength and conditioning).
 Gary Tranquill (quarterbacks).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1990 regular-season record: 3-13 (4th in AFC Central); 1-5 in division; 2-10 in conference; 2-6 at home; 1-7 on road.

1990 playoff record: None.

Belichick's regular-season record: First year as NFL head coach.

Team record last five years: 44-34-1 (.563, ranks 8th in league in that span).

1990 team rankings:

	AFC	NFL
Total offense.....	12	25
Rushing offense.....	14	28
Passing offense.....	6	12
Scoring offense.....	13	27
Total defense.....	9	17
Rushing defense.....	12	23
Passing defense.....	9	15
Scoring defense.....	14	28
Takeaways.....	T13	T27
Giveaways.....	14	28
Turnover differential.....	14	28
Sacks.....	12	23
Sacks allowed.....	11	16

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

Stadium (capacity): Cleveland Stadium (80,098).

Ticket information: 216-696-3800.

Flagship radio station: WMMS, 100.7 FM; WHK, 1420 AM.

Training site: Lakeland Community College, Mentor, O.; 216-696-5555.

1991 SCHEDULE

Sept. 1—DALLAS	1:00
Sept. 8—at New England	1:00
Sept. 15—CINCINNATI	1:00
Sept. 22—at N.Y. Giants	1:00
Sept. 29—Open date	
Oct. 6—N.Y. JETS	1:00
Oct. 13—at Washington	1:00
Oct. 20—at San Diego	1:00
Oct. 27—PITTSBURGH	1:00
Nov. 3—at Cincinnati	1:00
Nov. 10—PHILADELPHIA	1:00
Nov. 17—at Houston	7:00
Nov. 24—KANSAS CITY	1:00
Dec. 1—at Indianapolis	1:00
Dec. 8—DENVER	1:00
Dec. 15—HOUSTON	1:00
Dec. 22—at Pittsburgh	1:00

All times local.

All games Sunday.

1990 RESULTS

Sept. 9—PITTSBURGH	13-3
Sept. 16—at N.Y. Jets	21-24
Sept. 23—SAN DIEGO	14-24
Sept. 30—at Kansas City	0-34
Oct. 8—at Denver	30-29
Oct. 14—at New Orleans	20-25
Oct. 22—CINCINNATI	13-34
Oct. 28—at San Francisco	17-20
Nov. 4—BUFFALO	0-42
Nov. 11—Open date	
Nov. 18—HOUSTON	23-35
Nov. 25—MIAMI	13-30
Dec. 2—L.A. RAMS	23-38
Dec. 9—at Houston	14-58
Dec. 16—ATLANTA	13-10
Dec. 23—at Pittsburgh	0-35
Dec. 30—at Cincinnati	14-21

1990 LEADERS

Scoring (kicking): Jerry Kauric, 66 pts. (24/27 PATs, 14/20 FGs).

Scoring (touchdowns): Kevin Mack, 42 pts. (5 rushing, 2 receiving).

Passing: Bernie Kosar, 2,562 yds. (423 att., 230 comp., 54.4%, 10 TDs, 15 int.).

Rushing: Kevin Mack, 702 yds. (158 att., 4.4 avg., 5 TDs).

Receptions: Webster Slaughter, 59 (847 yds., 14.4 avg., 4 TDs).

Interceptions: Felix Wright, 3 (56 yds., 0 TDs).

Tackles: Mike Johnson, 161 (123 solo, 38 assisted).

Sacks: Michael Dean Perry, 11.5 (93 yds.).

Punting: Bryan Wagner, 38.9 avg. (74 punts, 2,879 yds., 4 blocked).

Punt returns: Stephon Adams, 6.2 avg. (13 att., 81 yds., 0 TDs).

Kickoff returns: Eric Metcalf, 20.2 avg. (52 att., 1,052 yds., 2 TDs).

1990 FANTASY STATISTICS

Statistics included for current members of 1991 roster only.

Name	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING				Defensive TDs	Total TDs
	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	18-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs		
Blaylock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1
Brennan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Gainer	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Green	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	4
Hoard	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
M. Johnson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1
Kosar	3	6	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Langhorne	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Mack	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Metcalf	-	-	-	-	1	-	2†	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Slaughter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	4

* fumble recovery. * interception. † kickoff return.

Green, a 13-year NFL veteran, doesn't have the blazing speed at age 34 he had at 24, but he's still capable of making the big play.

The tight end figures to be Charles Arbuckle, who was signed as a Plan B free agent from New Orleans. Belichick would like to move Lawyer Tillman from wide receiver to tight end, but the injury-prone Tillman, who spent the entire 1990 season on injured reserve, broke his ankle in May and probably won't play in 1991, either. Scott Galbraith, a 1990 rookie, will be the backup tight end.

LINEMEN—With no positions set, this again will be the weakest part of the offense. Kosar was bumped and bruised to the tune of 37 sacks in 1990 despite playing only 13 games. Teams could tee off against the immobile Kosar because the Browns ranked last in the NFL in rushing, thanks largely to an ineffective line.

Accorsi and Belichick took steps toward patching holes by signing guard John Rienstra (Pittsburgh) in Plan B and drafting guard Ed King (Auburn) in the second round, marking the first time since 1985 that the Browns had drafted a guard. King could end up at right tackle, with Rienstra at right guard.

The battle for the center slot pits aging incumbent Mike Baab and Gregg Rakoczy. Tony Jones figures to be the left tackle, while Paul Farren and Ralph Tamm will battle for left-guard duties. Not even Belichick knows his starters, but with 18 linemen on the training camp roster, he'll have plenty of bodies from which to choose.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—Following Belichick to Cleveland is a myth—that he prefers a 3-4 defense over a 4-3. He does nothing to destroy that myth, but the fact is, he'll play a four-man line in Cleveland.

"We were a four-man line in New York," Belichick said. "Ask any offensive coordinator, and he'll tell you they planned to block Lawrence Taylor with a tackle, not with a running back."

The Browns recorded just 32 sacks in 1990, 13 off the previous year's pace, so they used their draft picks in the third (James Jones), fourth (Pio Sagapolutele), eighth (Frank Conover) and 12th (Elijah Austin) rounds on big linemen.

Along with second-year ends Anthony Pleasant and Rob Burnett and All-Pro tackle Michael Dean Perry, the rookies should bolster the line and make it more difficult for opponents to move them around.

LINEBACKERS—After ageless outside linebacker Clay Matthews and steady inside man Mike Johnson, the Browns have no reliable linebackers. Eddie Johnson, who entered the league in 1981, could have difficulty retaining his backup role behind Mike Johnson.

Van Waiters and David Grayson again will contend for the left outside

slot, but for the last two years neither has played well enough to stake exclusive claim to the post.

Last year the linebackers complained that the defensive line played so poorly, they had to fight off guards constantly, preventing them from making tackles. The beefy line Belichick is putting together should alleviate some of those problems, but if Belichick is looking to pattern the Browns after the Giants, he'll have to wait. This group is not Carl Banks, Gary Reasons, Pepper Johnson and Taylor.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—The Browns were bombed for 32 touchdown passes last season, a strafing unparalleled in the team's annals.

The safety position was improved immensely when UCLA's Eric Turner was drafted with the second overall pick this year and Felix Wright was lost in Plan B. Turner is regarded as an intimidator and a sure tackler—a combination the Browns have lacked the last five years. Turner and strong safety Thane Gash should make it more difficult for opponents to frolic in the secondary.

Expecting much improvement at cornerback might be wishful thinking. Left cornerback Frank Minnifield played well last year, but his counterpart, Raymond Clayborn, was the fa-



Lean on me: Steady Mike Johnson is one of Cleveland's few reliable linebackers.

vorite target of most opposing quarterbacks in 1990. It's not likely he'll make the team this fall.

Mark Harper, reliable if not spectacular, could take the starting job from Clayborn, but that will leave a hole at

nickel back. Tony Blaylock, a speedster who has yet to convert his athletic skills into football savvy, could win the job by default.

SPECIAL TEAMS

This is where the ax fell heaviest when 1990 was reviewed. Bryan Wagner was cut after having four punts blocked and averaging a humble 38.9 yards per punt. Kicker Jerry Kauric was cut after missing three extra points and six of 20 field-goal tries. Pagel, the holder, also is history.

Matt Stover, an unproven Plan B pickup from the Giants, was signed to replace Kauric. Brian Hansen, a Plan B signee from New England, and Brian Greenfield, a 10th-round draft pick from Pittsburgh, will stage a punting duel that might not end until the last quarter of the last preseason game.

Metcalf again will return kickoffs. He had ample opportunities to run back kicks last year, racking up a league-high 1,052 yards and returning two kicks for touchdowns.

The Browns are desperate for a punt returner. Metcalf is potentially the Browns' best, but he pouts every time the subject is broached, which means the job will go to Mike Oliphant.



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Oilers hoping to hit a gusher before well runs dry

By JOHN McCLAIN
Houston Chronicle

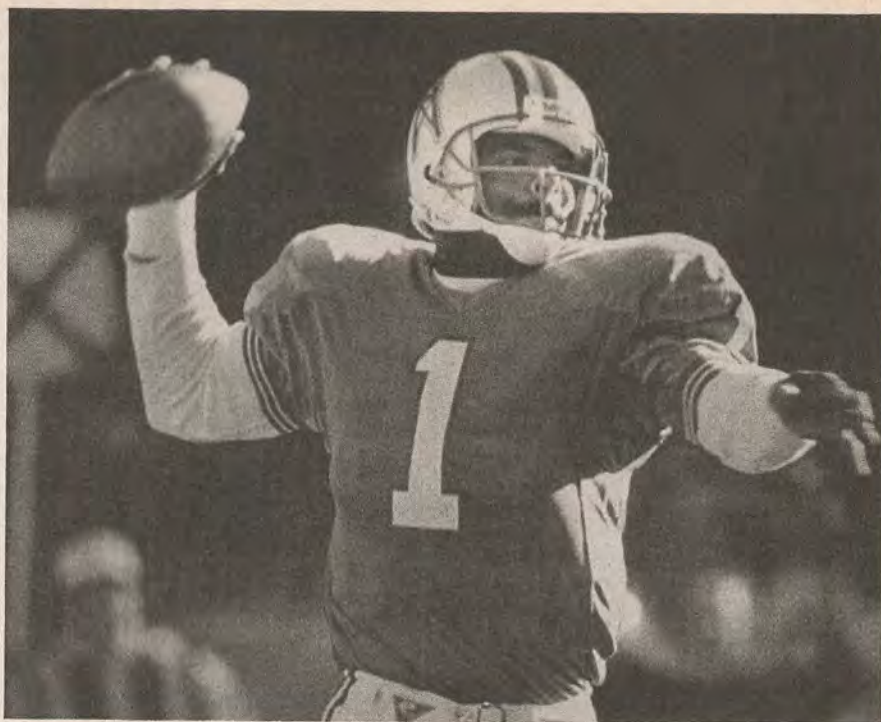
In their first season under Coach Jack Pardee, the Houston Oilers experienced popularity unprecedented since the Bum Phillips "Luv Ya Blue" era of the late 1970s. But the Oilers' popularity could wane if they only muster a fifth consecutive wild-card playoff berth and are saddled with another premature exit from postseason play.

The Oilers' goal is to win their first undisputed American Football Conference Central Division championship, earning home-field advantage in the playoffs in the process. Houston must act quickly because some of its best players are getting old.

Quarterback Warren Moon, receiver Drew Hill, guard Mike Munchak, center Bruce Matthews, guard Dean Steinkuhler, tackle Don Maggs, outside linebacker Johnny Meads, defensive tackle Doug Smith and free safety Terry Kinard are starters who will be at least 30 this season.

"Just because a team's got players that reach 30 doesn't mean it's time for them to throw in the towel," said Pardee, who was a charter member of George Allen's famed "Over the Hill Gang" in Washington in the early '70s. "Experience, especially playoff experience, means a lot in this league."

"We've got a lot of talent on this team. We put in new systems on offense



As fine as old wine: Houston quarterback Warren Moon, who turns 35 in November, is coming off his finest season.

and defense last season. We led the league in total offense and finished second in scoring. Our defense gave up 18 (actually 15) less touchdowns than the year before. This season, we expect to improve on all of those statistics."

And the Oilers need to improve on the 9-7 record they have posted in each of the last two seasons. If they don't, they could well miss the playoffs for the first time since 1986.

COACHING

Pardee is a quiet, even-tempered coach who seldom displays emotion. He is a stickler for detail and expects hard work and dedication from his players, some of whom had a difficult time adjusting to Pardee's regime, which demanded discipline on and off the field. Long practices, including serious work on Friday and Saturday, did not sit well with some players who openly complained that Pardee was working them too hard.

Even though he uses the run-and-shoot offense, Pardee is a defensive specialist who relies on a 4-3 alignment. He delegates a lot of authority to his assistants, all of whom return from last season. Offensive coordinator Kevin Gilbride calls the plays. Jim Eddy did a remarkable job coordinating the defense in his first season.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—Moon, who turns 35 in November, is coming off his finest season. He excelled in his first season of using the run-and-shoot full time, completing 362 of 584 passes for 4,689 yards, 33 touchdowns and only 13 interceptions. If he had not suffered an injured hand late in the season, his statistics would have been even more impressive.

After a shaky start, Moon was in command of an offense that averaged

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: Quarterback Warren Moon directs one of the league's most powerful offenses. The four starting receivers—Drew Hill, Ernest Givins, Haywood Jeffires and Curtis Duncan—combined for 286 catches, 3,831 yards and 23 touchdowns last season.

Weaknesses: The offense lacks a powerful run-and-shoot running back. The defense allowed 15 fewer touchdowns than the previous year, but opponents controlled the ball between the 20-yard lines. The defense must force more turnovers.

Key to success: Moon must stay healthy for the run-and-shoot to work. If it doesn't work, Houston doesn't have an offense.

Sure sign of trouble: If the Oilers lose their last two games of the season (at Cleveland and at the New York Giants). The Oilers are not a good road team, and the run-and-shoot is not the ideal offense for bad weather. Those two games could mean the difference between a division title, a wild-card berth or watching the playoffs on television.

That's a fact: Even though they switched coaches (from Jerry Glanville to Jack Pardee) before last season, the Oilers still led the league with 134 penalties. They have ranked No. 1 in penalties each of the last four years.

Coach Jack Pardee says: "We came a long way last year after a bad 0-2 start, and we expect to do better this season. We're always looking for ways to improve, not only on defense, but on offense, too."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Jeffires	McNeil	Wellman
WR	Hill	Harris	R.L. Johnson
LT	Maggs	Donnalley	
LG	Munchak	Norgard	
C	Matthews	Flannery	
RG	Steinkuhler	Dawson	
RT	Williams	Banes	
WR	Givins	Ford	Jefferson
WR	Duncan	T. Jones	C. Jones
QB	Moon	Carlson	Slack
RB	White	Pinkett	Brown

DEFENSE

LE	Fuller	Peguese	
LT	Childress	Gl. Montgomery	Rocker
RT	D. Smith	Alm	E. Johnson
RE	S. Jones	Byrd	
LOLB	Lathon	Fairs	Freeman
MLB	A. Smith	Seale	Moore
ROLB	Meads	Graf	Kozak
LCB	Dishman	Thomas	
RCB	R. Johnson	Lewis	Jackson
SS	McDowell	Hagy	Robertson
FS	Kinard	Dumas	Orlando

SPECIALISTS

K	Garcia
P	Gr. Montgomery
KR	McNeil
PR	McNeil

388.9 yards per game and scored 405 points. He enjoyed the second-most prolific passing day in National Football League history, throwing for 527 yards in a victory at Kansas City.

Moon is the team leader. He has a lot of freedom in the huddle and at the line of scrimmage. He changes a lot of calls at the line because he reads defenses exceptionally well.

When Moon suffered his hand injury, he was replaced by Cody Carlson, a five-year veteran. Carlson, 4-3 lifetime as a starter, directed the Oilers to a playoff-clinching victory over Pittsburgh in the season's final week. But he faltered in the wild-card playoff-game loss to Cincinnati.

RUNNING BACKS—The Oilers do not have the prototype run-and-shoot back, and they made no effort to acquire one over the winter. Ideally, Houston would like a back who is an awesome blocker and good receiver and is quick to hit a hole. Breakaway speed is not a necessity.

Last season's starter, Lorenzo White, rushed for 702 yards, caught 39 passes and scored 12 touchdowns. White improved as a blocker, showed receiving skills for the first time and has good quickness and moves. But he is not particularly fast and remains too much of an east-west runner. White also was a much better runner at home than on the road, gaining only 170 yards away from the Astrodome.

Allen Pinkett, a quality backup, is not suited for the run-and-shoot because he weighs only 196 pounds. He rushed for 268 yards and caught 11 passes, but the coaches believe his lack of size hinders his blocking ability.

The coaches are looking for a third back, one who excels on special teams while he develops.

RECEIVERS—The run-and-shoot is a godsend for receivers who want to pad their statistics and increase their salaries. Hill (74 catches for 1,019 yards), Haywood Jeffries (74 for 1,048), Ernest Givins (72 for 979) and Curtis Duncan (66 for 785) became known as the Fab Four. They are under intense pressure in this system because they must read the coverage and adjust their routes. Even though they were heavily criticized for dropping a lot of passes, especially early in the season, they are an outstanding foursome.

Hill and Givins went to the Pro Bowl. They are slot receivers with the quickness to use the inside of the field and the speed for deep seams. Jeffries and Duncan enjoyed their best seasons on the outside. They have less responsibility than Hill and Givins, but they proved no less important to the success or failure of the offense. None of the receivers has exceptional hands, but they are capable of making acrobatic catches.

Super-fast Tony Jones was the best rookie on the team. After catching 30 passes and scoring six touchdowns, he

1991 HOUSTON OILERS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL Exp.	College	How acq.	'90 Games GP/GS
Carlson, Cody	6-3/202	11-5-63	5	Baylor	D3/87	6/1
Moon, Warren	6-3/212	11-18-56	8	Washington	FA/84	15/15
Slack, Reggie	6-1/221	5-2-68	1	Auburn	D12/90	0/0
RUNNING BACKS						
Brown, Gary	5-11/218	7-1-69	R	Penn State	D8/91	—
Jordan, Tony	6-2/220	5-8-65	3	Kansas State	FA/90	0/0
Pinkett, Allen	5-9/196	1-25-64	6	Notre Dame	D3/86	15/0
Porter, Kerry	6-2/220	9-23-64	4	Washington State	PlanB/91	*13/3
White, Lorenzo	5-11/222	4-12-66	4	Michigan State	D1/88	16/16
RECEIVERS						
Duncan, Curtis	5-11/184	1-26-65	5	Northwestern	D10/87	16/16
Ford, Bernard	5-10/171	2-27-66	3	Central Florida	PlanB/90	14/0
Givins, Ernest	5-9/172	9-3-64	6	Louisville	D2/86	16/16
Harris, Leonard	5-8/162	11-27-60	6	Texas Tech	FA/87	14/0
Hill, Drew	5-9/172	10-5-56	12	Georgia Tech	T-Ram/85	16/16
Jefferson, Shawn	5-11/172	2-22-69	R	Central Florida	D9/91	—
Jeffries, Haywood	6-2/201	12-12-64	4	North Carolina State	D1b/87	16/16
Johnson, Alex	5-9/167	8-18-68	R	Miami (Fla.)	D12/91	—
Johnson, Richard L.	5-8/182	10-19-61	3	Colorado	PlanB/91	*16/16
Jones, Cedric	6-1/184	6-1-60	10	Duke	PlanB/91	*14/2
Jones, Tony	5-7/139	12-30-65	2	Texas	D6/90	15/0
McNeil, Gerald (KR/PR)	5-8/142	3-27-62	6	Baylor	PlanB/90	16/0
Wellman, Gary	5-9/173	8-9-67	R	Southern California	D5/91	—
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Dawson, Doug (G/C)	6-3/288	12-27-61	4	Texas	FA/90	16/1
Donnalley, Kevin (T)	6-5/290	6-10-68	R	North Carolina	D3a/91	—
Flannery, John (C)	6-3/304	1-13-69	R	Syracuse	D2b/91	—
Maggs, Don (T/G)	6-5/290	11-1-61	5	Tulane	SupD/84	16/16
Matthews, Bruce (C)	6-5/291	8-8-61	9	Southern California	D1/83	16/16
Munchak, Mike (G)	6-3/284	3-5-60	10	Penn State	D1/82	16/16
Norgard, Erik (C/G)	6-1/278	11-4-65	2	Colorado	FA/90	16/0
Steinkuhler, Dean (G)	6-3/287	1-27-61	8	Nebraska	D1/84	15/7
Williams, David (T)	6-5/292	6-21-66	3	Florida	D1/89	15/9
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Alm, Jeff (T)	6-6/269	3-31-68	2	Notre Dame	D2/90	16/0
Banks, Robert	6-5/260	12-10-63	4	Notre Dame	PlanB/91	*15/9
Childress, Ray (T/E)	6-6/272	10-20-62	7	Texas A&M	D1a/85	16/16
Fuller, William (E/T)	6-3/265	3-8-62	6	North Carolina	T-Ram/86	16/16
Johnson, Ezra (E)	6-4/257	10-2-55	15	Morris Brown (Ga.)	PlanB/90	16/3
Jones, Sean (E)	6-7/264	12-19-62	8	Northeastern	T-Rai/88	16/16
Montgomery, Glenn (T)	6-0/268	3-31-67	3	Houston	D5/89	15/0
Peguese, Willis (E)	6-4/267	12-18-66	2	Miami (Fla.)	D3/90	2/0
Rocker, David (T)	6-4/267	3-12-69	R	Auburn	D4/91	—
Stewart, Alex (E)	6-4/260	8-24-64	1	Cal State Fullerton	FA/90	IR
LINEBACKERS						
Fairs, Eric	6-3/244	2-17-64	6	Memphis State	FA/86	16/1
Freeman, Kyle	6-1/234	11-22-65	R	Angelo State (Tex.)	D7/91	—
Graf, Rick	6-5/250	8-29-63	5	Wisconsin	PlanB/91	*8/0
Kozak, Scott	6-3/222	11-28-65	3	Oregon	D2/89	16/0
Lathon, Lamar	6-3/244	12-23-67	2	Houston	D1/90	11/1
Meads, Johnny	6-2/226	6-25-61	8	Nicholls State	D3/84	16/16
Moore, Curtis	6-1/247	11-2-67	R	Kansas	D10/91	—
Seale, Eugene	5-10/253	6-3-64	5	Lamar (Tex.)	FA/87	15/0
Smith, Al	6-1/244	11-26-64	5	Utah State	D6a/87	15/15
DEFENSIVE BACKS						
Bergeson, Eric (S)	5-11/192	1-1-66	2	Brigham Young	PlanB/91	*13/0
Dishman, Cris (CB)	6-0/178	8-13-65	4	Purdue	D5a/88	16/16
Dumas, Mike	5-11/178	3-18-69	R	Indiana	D2/91	—
Hagy, John (S)	6-0/190	12-9-65	4	Texas	PlanB/91	*16/11
Jackson, Steve	5-8/182	4-8-69	R	Purdue	D3/91	—
Johnson, Richard (CB)	6-1/195	9-16-63	7	Wisconsin	D1b/85	16/16
Kinard, Terry (S)	6-1/198	11-24-59	9	Clemson	PlanB/90	16/16
Knight, Leander (S)	6-1/192	2-16-63	3	Montclair State (N.J.)	PlanB/90	16/1
Lewis, Darryl	5-9/193	12-16-68	R	Arizona	D2a/91	—
McDowell, Bubba (S)	6-1/198	11-4-66	3	Miami (Fla.)	D3/89	15/15
Orlando, Bo (S)	5-10/180	4-3-66	2	West Virginia	D6/89	16/0
Robertson, Marcus	5-11/197	10-2-69	R	Iowa State	D4a/91	—
Smith, James	6-2/211	11-18-69	R	Richmond	D11/91	—
Thomas, Dee (CB/S)	5-10/176	11-7-67	2	Nicholls State	D10/90	6/0
SPECIALISTS						
Garcia, Teddy (K)	5-9/172	6-4-64	4	Northeast Louisiana	FA/90	9/0
Montgomery, Greg (P)	6-4/215	10-29-64	4	Michigan State	D3/88	16/0
OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP						
Joey Banes, T; Ed Beaulac, K; Pat Coleman, WR; Cleveland Colter, S; Corey Edmond, LB; Keith Friberg, E/LB; Gary Hollingsworth, QB; Scott Hough, T; Doug Lewis, RB; Tom Muecke, QB; Jon Reed, WR; Scott Thomas, G/T.						

*Not with Oilers in 1990.
Key to abbreviations on page 160.

DID YOU KNOW...

... that the Oilers and San Francisco 49ers are the only teams that have made the playoffs each of the last four years?

Continued

COACHES

Head coach: Jack Pardee.

Assistant coaches:

Jim Eddy (defensive coordinator).

Kevin Gilbride (offensive coordinator).

Frank Novak (running backs).

Chris Palmer (receivers).

Richard Smith (special teams/linebackers).

Jim Stanley (defensive line).

Pat Thomas (defensive backs).

Steve Watterson (strength and rehabilitation).

Bob Young (offensive line).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1990 regular-season record: 9-7 (2nd in AFC Central); 4-2 in division; 8-4 in conference; 6-2 at home; 3-5 on road.

1990 playoff record: Lost to Bengals, 41-14, in AFC wild-card game.

Pardee's regular-season record: 9-7 in one season with Oilers; 53-53 overall in seven NFL seasons with Oilers, Bears and Redskins.

Pardee's postseason record: 0-1 in one playoff with Oilers; 0-2 overall in two playoffs with Oilers and Bears.

Team record last five years: 42-37 (.532, ranks T13th in league in that span).

1990 team rankings:	AFC	NFL
Total offense.....	1	1
Rushing offense.....	11	24
Passing offense.....	1	1
Scoring offense.....	2	2
Total defense.....	7	11
Rushing defense.....	2	8
Passing defense.....	8	14
Scoring defense.....	8	14
Takeaways.....	4	T9
Giveaways.....	T11	T19
Turnover differential.....	8	T16
Sacks.....	T6	T13
Sacks allowed.....	8	13

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

Stadium (capacity): Astrodome (60,502).

Ticket information: 713-797-1000; 713-799-9555.

Flagship radio station: KTRH, 740 AM.

Training site: Trinity University, San Antonio, Tex.; 713-797-9111.

1991 SCHEDULE

Sept. 1—	L.A. RAIDERS	3:00
Sept. 8—	at Cincinnati	8:00
Sept. 16—	KANSAS CITY (Mon.)	8:00
Sept. 22—	at New England	1:00
Sept. 29—	Open date	
Oct. 6—	DENVER	12:00
Oct. 13—	at N.Y. Jets	4:00
Oct. 20—	at Miami	1:00
Oct. 27—	CINCINNATI	12:00
Nov. 3—	at Washington	1:00
Nov. 10—	DALLAS	12:00
Nov. 17—	CLEVELAND	7:00
Nov. 24—	at Pittsburgh	1:00
Dec. 2—	PHILADELPHIA (Mon.)	8:00
Dec. 8—	PITTSBURGH	12:00
Dec. 15—	at Cleveland	1:00
Dec. 21—	at N.Y. Giants (Sat.)	12:30

All times local.

All games Sunday unless noted.

1990 RESULTS

Sept. 9—	at Atlanta	27-47
Sept. 16—	at Pittsburgh	9-20
Sept. 23—	INDIANAPOLIS	24-10
Sept. 30—	at San Diego	17-7
Oct. 7—	SAN FRANCISCO	21-24
Oct. 14—	CINCINNATI	48-17
Oct. 21—	NEW ORLEANS	23-10
Oct. 28—	N.Y. JETS	12-17
Nov. 4—	at L.A. Rams	13-17
Nov. 11—	Open date	
Nov. 18—	at Cleveland	35-23
Nov. 26—	BUFFALO	27-24
Dec. 2—	at Seattle (OT)	10-13
Dec. 9—	CLEVELAND	58-14
Dec. 16—	at Kansas City	27-10
Dec. 23—	at Cincinnati	20-40
Dec. 30—	PITTSBURGH	34-14

1990 LEADERS

Scoring (kicking): Teddy Garcia, 68 pts. (26/28 PATs, 14/20 FGs).

Scoring (touchdowns): Lorenzo White, 72 pts. (8 rushing, 4 receiving).

Passing: Warren Moon, 4,689 yds. (584 att., 362 comp., 62%, 33 TDs, 13 int.).

Rushing: Lorenzo White, 702 yds. (168 att., 4.2 avg., 8 TDs).

Receptions: Haywood Jeffires, 74 (1048 yds., 14.2 avg., 8 TDs); Drew Hill, 74 (1019 yds., 13.8 avg., 5 TDs).

Interceptions: Richard Johnson, 8 (100 yds., 1 TD).

Tackles: Al Smith, 101 (75 solo, 26 assisted).

Sacks: Sean Jones, 12.5 (91 yds.).

Punting: Greg Montgomery, 45.0 avg. (34 punts, 1,530 yds., 0 blocked).

Punt returns: Gerald McNeil, 5.7 avg. (30 att., 172 yds., 0 TDs).

Kickoff returns: Gerald McNeil, 20.4 avg. (27 att., 551 yds., 0 TDs).

1990 FANTASY STATISTICS

Statistics included for current members of 1991 roster only.

Name	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING				Defensive TDs	Total TDs
	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	18-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs		
Carlson	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Duncan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ford	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Garcia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	5	-	26	-	-
Givins	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	9
Harris	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Hill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	5
Jeffires	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	8
R. L. Johnson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
R. Johnson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1
T. Jones	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Kinard	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1
Moon	14	14	5	9	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35
White	-	-	-	-	7	1	-	2	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12

* fumble recovery. * interception.

will challenge for Duncan's starting job.

LINEMEN—This has been an area of strength for years, and 1990 was no exception. There will be position changes, however, as the coaches move players to take advantage of their abilities in the run-and-shoot. Drive blocking is out; now the linemen just step, hit and adjust on the run.

Matthews, an All-Pro guard, will start the season at center, a position he played late last year out of necessity. Matthews played center so effectively in the last two games that the coaches expect him to become the best in the league. Without a tight end and fullback to help block, the center must handle the nose tackle by himself.

Munchak, a five-time Pro Bowl selection, is secure at left guard. He remains one of the league's better blockers. Left tackle Maggs is a finesse player who performed well against some of the best pass-rushing ends last fall. Right tackle David Williams did better than expected when he replaced the injured Steinkuhler over the second half of the season. Steinkuhler, who missed the last eight games because of an injured elbow, will move inside to compete for Matthews' right-guard position with Doug Dawson, a capable backup.

This is the oldest group of players on the team, with four of the starters being at least 30 years old this season. Houston drafted center John Flannery and tackle Kevin Donnalley to inject some new blood.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—This was the most improved area on the team last season as the linemen enjoyed the switch from a 3-4 to a 4-3 alignment. Ends Sean Jones (12½ sacks) and William Fuller (eight) and tackle Ray Childress (eight) accounted for 28½ of the team's 38 sacks. They also played the run well.

Smith, Ezra Johnson and Jeff Alm rotated at right tackle next to Childress. The coaches would like to move Childress to strongside end, but a shortage at tackle means he will stay at the position where he earned another trip to the Pro Bowl last year.

The coaches hope Alm, last year's second-round pick, plays well enough to start. They would love for Smith, who has been hampered by injuries in recent years, to play a full season, but that's asking too much. Plan B free agent Robert Banks, second-year end Willis Peguese, third-year tackle Glenn Montgomery and rookie tackle David Rocker also figure into the picture.

LINEBACKERS—Pardee likes linebackers who are big and strong. Middle linebacker Al Smith, who played so well that the Oilers traded John Grimsley to Miami, weighs 244 pounds and stuffs the run.

After a slow start, Lamar Lathon, the Oilers' 1990 No. 1 pick, made some big plays and established himself late in the season as the starter on the strongside.

The weakside has belonged to Meads for years. He is light (226 pounds) and quick. He was the only linebacker who played in passing situations. In some situations, though, expect Plan B free agent Rick Graf to be in the lineup with Al Smith and Lathon.

A lot of quality depth can be found in special-teams standouts Eugene Seale, Eric Fairs and Scott Kozak.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—The secondary needed and received a lot of attention in the off-season. The Oilers devoted the early part of the draft to defensive backs, taking three among their first four picks and five overall. Two Plan B safeties were signed, too.

There is nothing wrong with three of the starters. Cornerback Richard Johnson led the AFC with eight interceptions and played well enough to go to the Pro Bowl. He also plays the run well. Cornerback Cris Dishman, who has yet to get a grip on an explosive personality that erupts at the wrong times, covers well but has problems against the run. Bubba McDowell is one of the league's better strong safeties and the hardest hitter in the secondary.

Kinard was a stopgap last season at free safety. Competing for his job will be Plan B free agent John Hagy, who started 11 games for Buffalo, veteran Bo Orlando, a special-teams dynamo who hits harder than McDowell, and



No sad sack: Ray Childress was part of a defensive line trio that recorded 28½ of the Oilers' 38 sacks last year.

Mike Dumas, Houston's top 1991 draft choice.

Second-year cornerback Dee Thomas and rookies Darryl Lewis, Steve Jackson and Marcus Robertson will be competing for playing time in a secondary

that uses six backs in passing situations.

SPECIAL TEAMS

With the exception of punter Greg Montgomery, the Oilers have big problems in this area. Montgomery had a 45-yard average, which would have been the league's best had he punted enough times to qualify. Houston's successful run-and-shoot offense kept him on the bench too often.

Pardee elected to keep journeyman kicker Teddy Garcia over dependable Tony Zendejas. Zendejas got off to an erratic start last year, then suffered a broken leg. Garcia replaced him and hit 14 of 20 field-goal attempts while scoring 68 points. But Garcia is on shaky ground. The Oilers had him kick for San Antonio in the World League of American Football in the spring, and the Riders waived him after two games. Pardee hopes he does better for the Oilers.

The return teams need help. Gerald McNeil averaged a career-low 5.7 yards on punt returns, but he did not have good blocking. He averaged a mediocre 20.4 yards on kickoff returns.

The coverage teams were above average, but they didn't force fumbles and dominate the way they had in previous years.



HOUSTON OILERS FOOTBALL

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Humbled Pittsburgh looks to steal the show in '91

By STEVE HUBBARD
Pittsburgh Press

The 1990 Pittsburgh Steelers shot for the moon, but when all was said and done, they played the buffoon.

In their biggest game of the year—the regular-season finale against Houston, a contest that meant playoffs or layoffs—the Steelers turned in a lifeless performance. The Oilers, meanwhile, played like a team on a mission and romped to a 34-14 victory.

Pittsburgh fans, like everyone else, expected more. The 1989 Steelers won big games, qualified for the playoffs and came within minutes of an appearance in the American Football Conference championship game. They giddily claimed they would ride that confidence and experience into Super Bowl XXV and forge on to become the Team of the '90s.

But in 1990, the Steelers not only couldn't win the big games, they couldn't even win the medium games. Six times they played a team with a winning record, and six times they lost.

The Steelers did match their predecessors' 9-7 regular-season record, but even though the playoffs were expanded from 10 to 12 teams, they failed to win the tiebreakers to qualify for the playoffs.

"The only positive part of it, if there is a positive part, is that we'll have a long time to think about it, and that



Hot Rod: All-Pro cornerback Rod Woodson was one reason why Pittsburgh boasted the NFL's top-rated pass defense in 1990.

may stir up some resolve," Coach Chuck Noll said. "We may have been a little bit too high in the off-season. Maybe we'll get ourselves in gear and get after what we have to do to become the championship club I think we're capable of being."

COACHING

Noll knows championship clubs, but it's been a while. He guided the Steelers

to four Super Bowl titles in six years in the '70s, but only 44 victories and one playoff appearance in the last six.

After being criticized for years for his simplistic, conservative offense, Noll relinquished control and allowed new offensive coordinator Joe Walton, the former New York Jets coach, to make changes. The change might have been too drastic.

Walton boggled the players' minds with fancy language and multiple formations and plays. The players' confusion resulted in Pittsburgh failing to score an offensive touchdown the first four weeks and landing in a 1-3 hole. Only then, sensing a player mutiny, did Noll convince Walton to scale down his playbook and adapt it to better suit his players' talents.

The offense should improve as Walton adapts to his players and vice versa. The development of quarterback Bubby Brister, halfback Tim Worley, tight end Eric Green and wide receivers Jeff Graham and Ernie Mills could turn Walton into a genius.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—Brister finished 10th in the league in passer rating despite the offense's problems, a sore shoulder and the lack of a deep threat to pair with receiver Louis Lipps. Brister's .576 completion percentage narrowly missed breaking the team record, and his 20 touchdown passes were the most by a Steelers quarterback since 1981. Still, more will be and should be expected this year.

In three years as a starter, Brister has displayed a wealth of talent and potential. He should only get better as everyone masters Walton's offense.

Rick Strom held the backup job last

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: The Steelers boast the league's top-rated defense and pass defense, led by Pro Bowl cornerback Rod Woodson. The special teams are solid with returner Woodson and place-kicker Gary Anderson.

Weaknesses: An inconsistent quarterback and offense. Quarterback Bubby Brister had off-season surgery to repair a sore shoulder and both he and his offensive cohorts have had a full year to learn a complex scheme, however, and so both should be better.

Keys to success: The Steelers need Brister to be healthy and consistent. Plus, running back Tim Worley must live up to his star status.

Sure sign of trouble: The Steelers must avoid another slow start because six of their final seven games are against Cincinnati, Houston, Washington and Dallas.

That's a fact: Tight ends Eric Green and Mike Mularkey combined for 66 receptions last year; Pittsburgh tight ends combined for only 95 over the previous six seasons.

Coach Chuck Noll says: "We beat someone with a winning record. We beat ourselves a few times."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Graham	Mills	Stone
LT	Jackson	Ricketts	Strzelczyk
LG	Ricketts	Blankenship	Dingman
C	Dawson	Lanza	Blankenship
RG	Haselrig	Long	Dingman
RT	Ilkin	Strzelczyk	Solomon
TE	Green	Mularkey	Cooper
WR	Lipps	Calloway	Davis
QB	Brister	O'Donnell	Strom
HB	Worley	Foster	W. Williams
FB	Hoge	Foster	Thompson

DEFENSE

LE	A. Jones	Willis	Dunbar
NT	G. Williams	Freeman	Wyatt
RE	Davidson	Evans	Veasey
LOLB	Hinkle	Richardson	J. Williams
LILB	Nickerson	Olsavsky	Brady
RILB	Little	McGovern	A. Jones
ROLB	Lloyd	Richardson	Jenkins
LCB	Johnson	Hall	Woodruff
RCB	Woodson	Walker	
SS	Lake	G. Jones	Griffin
FS	Everett	Griffin	Thomas

SPECIALISTS

K	Anderson		
P	Stryzinski		
KR	Woodson	Stone	
PR	Woodson	Graham	Lipps

year and played fairly well in limited duty. He will be challenged for the backup job by Neil O'Donnell.

RUNNING BACKS—The Steelers want to regain their prominence as one of the league's best running teams after falling into the middle of the pack the last two years.

Merrill Hoge is a good all-around full-back who makes the most out of his abilities. But he is limited by a lack of speed and elusiveness.

For the Steelers to be special, they need Worley to live up to his potential. Worley has great size and straight-ahead speed, but he must develop more discipline and elusiveness and stop fumbling. It's not all Worley's fault, though. Noll must be more patient and stick with him longer.

Worley could be pressed for time by promising Barry Foster. Backup Warren Williams doesn't have great speed, but he has been productive when he plays. If Worley or Foster comes through, the Steelers' running game could improve considerably.

RECEIVERS—Time and Walton's system have reduced Lipps to a possession receiver. He has caught exactly 50 passes each of the last three seasons and is a dependable, if no longer sensational, receiver.

Lipps could be much better if opponents start respecting the wideout opposite him. The rights to that spot should be a wide-open battle among holdover Dwight Stone and rookies Graham and Mills. Second-year pro Chris Calloway, a competent possession receiver, also could figure in the picture.

Walton loves tight ends, often using two and three at a time, and the Steelers have assembled quite a cast. Playing part-time and in only 13 games, Green caught 34 balls and scored seven touchdowns. He could be an All-Pro in his second season. Mike Mularkey's sore knees have robbed him of some mobility, but he has phenomenal hands. Impressive rookies Adrian Cooper and Bruce McGonnigal will challenge Terry O'Shea for the third job.

LINEMEN—The line's sack total dropped from 51 to 33 last year, but it still has room to improve.

Right tackle Tunch Ilkin, who had made the Pro Bowl the previous two years, struggled in 1990 after off-season surgery and an in-season injury robbed him of strength. The aging Ilkin could be challenged by Justin Strzelczyk.

Left tackle John Jackson and center Dermontti Dawson emerged as the Steelers' best linemen. Both may have Pro Bowls in their future.

The questions are at guard, where incumbents Brian Blankenship and Terry Long might lose their jobs. Tom Ricketts, normally a tackle, could start at left guard, while six-time NCAA wrestling champion Carlton Haselrig will be given every opportunity to replace

1991 PITTSBURGH STEELERS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL Exp.	College	How acq.	'90 Games GP/GS
Brister, Bobby	6-3/208	8-15-62	6	Northeast Louisiana	D3/86	16/16
O'Donnell, Neil	6-3/221	7-3-66	1	Maryland	D3a/90	0/0
Strom, Rick	6-2/201	3-11-65	3	Georgia Tech	FA/89	6/0
RUNNING BACKS						
Foster, Barry	5-10/223	12-8-68	2	Arkansas	D5/90	16/1
Hoge, Merrill (FB)	6-2/229	1-26-65	5	Idaho State	D10/87	16/15
Thompson, Leroy (FB)	5-10/210	2-3-69	R	Penn State	D6/91	—
Williams, Warren	6-0/201	7-29-65	4	Miami (Fla.)	D6/88	14/4
Worley, Tim	6-2/223	9-24-66	3	Georgia	D1a/89	11/8
RECEIVERS						
Calloway, Chris	5-10/185	3-29-68	2	Michigan	D4/90	16/2
Cooper, Adrian (TE)	6-5/253	4-27-68	R	Oklahoma	D4a/91	—
Davis, Lorenzo	5-11/185	2-12-68	2	Youngstown State	FA/90	4/0
Fair, Ron	5-11/190	10-28-66	1	Arizona State	FA/90	0/0
Graham, Jeff (PR)	6-1/198	2-14-69	R	Ohio State	D2/91	—
Green, Eric (TE)	6-5/274	6-22-67	2	Liberty	D1/90	13/7
Lipps, Louis (PR)	5-10/186	8-9-62	8	Southern Mississippi	D1/84	14/14
McGonnigal, Bruce (TE)	6-4/229	5-1-68	R	Virginia	D9/91	—
Mills, Ernie	5-11/176	10-28-68	R	Florida	D3/91	—
Mularkey, Mike (TE)	6-4/238	11-19-61	9	Florida	PlanB/89	16/15
O'Shea, Terry (TE)	6-4/238	12-3-66	3	California (Pa.)	FA/89	16/0
Stone, Dwight (RB/KR)	6-0/190	1-28-64	5	Middle Tennessee State	FA/87	16/2
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Blankenship, Brian (C/G)	6-1/280	4-7-63	5	Nebraska	FA/87	16/13
Dawson, Dermontti (C)	6-2/279	6-17-65	4	Kentucky	D2/88	16/16
Dingman, Dean (G)	6-2/286	9-27-68	R	Michigan	D8/91	—
Haselrig, Carlton (G)	6-1/291	1-22-66	2	Pittsburgh-Johnstown	D12/89	16/0
Ilkin, Tunch (T)	6-3/274	9-23-57	12	Indiana State	D6/80	13/13
Jackson, John (T)	6-6/290	1-4-65	4	Eastern Kentucky	D10/88	16/16
Lanza, Chuck (C)	6-2/265	9-20-64	3	Notre Dame	D3/88	IR
Long, Terry (G)	5-11/278	7-21-59	8	East Carolina	D4/84	16/16
Ricketts, Tom (G/T)	6-5/293	11-2-65	3	Pittsburgh	D1b/89	16/3
Solomon, Ariel (T)	6-5/273	7-16-68	R	Colorado	D10/91	—
Strzelczyk, Justin (T)	6-5/291	8-18-68	2	Maine	D11/90	16/0
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Davidson, Kenny (E)	6-5/272	8-17-67	2	Louisiana State	D2/90	14/0
Dunbar, Karl (E)	6-4/275	5-18-67	1	Louisiana State	D8/90	IR
Evans, Donald (E)	6-2/265	3-14-64	3	Winston-Salem (N.C.) St.	FA/90	16/16
Freeman, Lorenzo (NT)	6-5/318	5-23-64	5	Pittsburgh	FA/87	11/1
Jones, Aaron (E)	6-5/269	12-18-66	4	Eastern Kentucky	D1/88	7/1
Veasey, Craig (E)	6-2/280	12-25-66	2	Houston	D3b/90	10/0
Williams, Gerald (NT)	6-3/291	9-3-63	6	Auburn	D2/86	16/15
Willis, Keith (E)	6-1/263	7-29-59	9	Northeastern	FA/82	16/16
Wyatt, Willie (NT)	6-0/275	9-27-67	2	Alabama	PlanB/91	*7/3
LINEBACKERS						
Brady, Jeff	6-1/220	11-9-68	R	Kentucky	D12/91	—
Hinkle, Bryan	6-2/220	6-4-59	10	Oregon	D6/81	16/16
Jenkins, A.J. (DE)	6-2/237	4-12-66	3	Cal State Fullerton	D9/89	5/0
Jones, Andre	6-3/226	5-15-69	R	Notre Dame	D7/91	—
Little, David	6-1/236	1-3-59	11	Florida	D7/81	16/14
Lloyd, Greg	6-2/225	5-26-65	4	Fort Valley (Ga.) State	D6/87	15/14
McGovern, Rob	6-2/234	10-1-66	3	Holy Cross	PlanB/91	*11/0
Nickerson, Hardy	6-2/225	9-1-65	5	California	D5/87	16/14
Olsavsky, Jerry	6-1/218	3-29-67	3	Pittsburgh	D10/89	15/0
Richardson, Huey	6-5/274	2-2-68	R	Florida	D1/91	—
Williams, Jerrol	6-5/244	7-5-67	3	Purdue	D4/89	16/1
DEFENSIVE BACKS						
Everett, Thomas (S)	5-9/182	11-21-64	5	Baylor	D4/87	15/14
Griffin, Larry (S)	6-0/202	1-11-63	5	North Carolina	FA/87	16/3
Hall, Delton (CB)	6-1/208	1-16-65	5	Clemson	D2/87	12/1
Johnson, David (CB)	6-0/185	4-14-66	3	Kentucky	D7/89	16/15
Jones, Gary (S)	6-1/203	11-30-67	2	Texas A&M	D9/90	16/1
Lake, Carnell (S)	6-1/207	7-15-67	3	UCLA	D2/89	16/16
Thomas, Efrum (S)	5-11/186	7-18-69	R	Alabama	D11/91	—
Walker, Sammy (CB)	5-11/192	1-20-69	R	Texas Tech	D4/91	—
Woodruff, Dwayne (CB)	6-0/196	2-18-57	12	Louisville	D6/79	15/1
Woodson, Rod (CB/KR)	6-0/197	3-10-65	5	Purdue	D1/87	16/16
SPECIALISTS						
Anderson, Gary (K)	5-11/184	7-16-59	10	Syracuse	W-Buf/82	16/0
Strzynski, Dan (P)	6-1/193	5-15-65	2	Indiana	FA/90	16/0
OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP						
Mike Bernard, G/T; Ricky Byrd, G; Scott Davis, RB; Rich Drayton, WR; Tyreese Herds, DB; Randy Holleran, LB; Fernando Horn, DL; Garry Howe, NT; Jarrod Johnson, C; Brian LeBaron, LB; Sam Mannery, QB; Ken Rock, RB; Kevin Smith, S; Shawn Vincent, CB; Jeff Walker, TE; Dan Walsh, RB.						

*Not with Steelers in 1990.
Key to abbreviations on page 160.

DID YOU KNOW ...

... that rookie tight end Eric Green—offered a \$10,000 bonus if he led the Steelers in receptions—finished third, but he so impressed Pittsburgh President Dan Rooney with his 34 catches and seven touchdowns that Rooney gave him the money anyway?

Continued

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Long at right guard as the Steelers try to get bigger and better.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—The defense was the league's best despite the lack of a pass rush. Playing a conservative 3-4 alignment in which the linebackers blitzed infrequently and the linemen played the run first, the Steelers garnered only 34 sacks. But Pittsburgh should rush more aggressively and play more 4-3 this year because they have quick, athletic young pass rushers in Aaron Jones, Kenny Davidson and Craig Veasey.

Jones, who has been slow to develop partly because of injuries, could beat out left end Keith Willis. Davidson or Veasey could beat out smallish right end Donald Evans.

Nose tackle Gerald Williams recorded a career-high six sacks and blossomed into the Steelers' best lineman a year ago.

LINEBACKERS—Steady David Little led the team in tackles for the fifth time in six years and earned an overdue trip to the Pro Bowl last season.

Bryan Hinkle, Greg Lloyd and Hardy Nickerson also are solid players, but the Steelers need them to make more big plays. Lloyd showed that potential in the second half of '89, his first full year as a starter, but tailed off last season.

First-round draft pick Huey Richardson could push Lloyd and Hinkle for playing time on the outside. If Richardson develops the way the Steelers hope, he will be used as a combination linebacker/end in a variety of positions.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—This is the team's strength. Rod Woodson emerged as an All-Pro cornerback last fall, and the only questions concerning him are when he will sign a new contract and if he will continue on to a Hall of Fame career. Surprisingly, David Johnson covered almost as well as Woodson in his first season at left cornerback.

Carnell Lake, who has Pro Bowl potential, and Thomas Everett are solid safeties. Sammy Walker, Delton Hall, Larry Griffin and Gary Jones provide depth.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Every year, Gary Anderson is among the league's best place-kickers. Newcomer Dan Stryzinski punted short, but he also punted high and consistently.

Woodson is one of the league's top return men, and Stone is a threat to return kicks all the way. Woodson could be relieved as a punt returner by Graham, who returned three punts for touchdowns in his final two years at Ohio State.

The coverage and protection teams have been excellent except for the kick-coverage team, which ranked 27th in the NFL last year. That unit should improve with the addition of more team speed.



COACHES

Head coach: Chuck Noll.
Assistant coaches:
 Ron Blackledge (offensive line).
 Dave Brazil (defensive coordinator).
 John Fox (defensive backs).
 Joe Greene (defensive line).
 Jack Henry (offensive line).
 Dick Hoak (offensive backfield).
 Jon Kolb (tight ends/conditioning).
 Dwain Painter (receivers).
 George Stewart (special teams).
 Bob Valesente (linebackers).
 Joe Walton (offensive coordinator).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1990 regular-season record: 9-7 (3rd in AFC Central); 2-4 in division; 6-6 in conference; 6-2 at home; 3-5 on road.

1990 playoff record: None.

Noll's regular-season record: 186-139-1 in 22 seasons with Steelers.

Noll's postseason record: 16-8 in 12 playoffs with Steelers (4-0 in Super Bowls).

Team record last five years: 37-79 (.468, ranks 18th in league in that span).

1990 team rankings:	AFC	NFL
Total offense.....	11	22
Rushing offense.....	7	13
Passing offense.....	14	25
Scoring offense.....	11	20
Total defense.....	1	1
Rushing defense.....	4	11
Passing defense.....	1	1
Scoring defense.....	1	3
Takeaways.....	2	T3
Giveaways.....	T7	T13
Turnover differential.....	3	5
Sacks.....	T8	T17
Sacks allowed.....	T6	T10

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

Stadium (capacity): Three Rivers Stadium (59,000).
Ticket information: 412-323-1200.
Flagship radio station: WTAE, 1250 AM.
Training site: St. Vincent College, Latrobe, Pa.; 412-539-8515.

1991 SCHEDULE

Sept. 1	SAN DIEGO	4:00
Sept. 8	at Buffalo	1:00
Sept. 15	NEW ENGLAND	1:00
Sept. 22	at Philadelphia	1:00
Sept. 29	Open date	
Oct. 6	at Indianapolis	7:00
Oct. 14	N.Y. GIANTS (Mon.)	9:00
Oct. 20	SEATTLE	1:00
Oct. 27	at Cleveland	1:00
Nov. 3	at Denver	6:00
Nov. 10	at Cincinnati	1:00
Nov. 17	WASHINGTON	1:00
Nov. 24	HOUSTON	1:00
Nov. 28	at Dallas (Thanks.)	3:00
Dec. 8	at Houston	12:00
Dec. 15	CINCINNATI	1:00
Dec. 22	CLEVELAND	1:00

All times local.

All games Sunday unless noted.

1990 RESULTS

Sept. 9	at Cleveland	3-13
Sept. 16	HOUSTON	20-9
Sept. 23	at L.A. Raiders	3-20
Sept. 30	MIAMI	6-28
Oct. 7	SAN DIEGO	36-14
Oct. 14	at Denver	34-17
Oct. 21	at San Francisco	7-27
Oct. 29	L.A. RAMS	41-10
Nov. 4	ATLANTA	21-9
Nov. 11	Open date	
Nov. 18	at Cincinnati	3-27
Nov. 25	at N.Y. Jets	24-7
Dec. 2	CINCINNATI	12-16
Dec. 9	NEW ENGLAND	24-3
Dec. 16	at New Orleans	9-6
Dec. 23	CLEVELAND	35-0
Dec. 30	at Houston	14-34

1990 LEADERS

Scoring (kicking): Gary Anderson, 92 pts. (32/32 PATs, 20/25 FGs).
Scoring (touchdowns): Merril Hoge, 60 pts. (7 rushing, 3 receiving).
Passing: Bobby Brister, 2,725 yds. (387 att., 223 comp., 57.6%, 20 TDs, 14 int.).
Rushing: Merril Hoge, 772 yds. (203 att., 3.8 avg., 7 TDs).
Receptions: Louis Lipps, 50 (682 yds., 13.6 avg., 3 TDs).
Interceptions: Rod Woodson, 5 (67 yds., 0 TDs).
Tackles: David Little, 80 (63 solo, 17 assisted).
Sacks: Gerald Williams, 6 (47 yds.).
Punting: Dan Stryzinski, 37.8 avg. (65 punts, 2,454 yds., 0 blocked).
Punt returns: Rod Woodson, 10.5 avg. (38 att., 398 yds., 1 TD).
Kickoff returns: Rod Woodson, 21.8 avg. (35 att., 764 yds., 0 TDs).

1990 FANTASY STATISTICS

Statistics included for current members of 1991 roster only.

Name	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING				Defensive TDs	Total TDs
	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	18-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs		
Anderson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	8	-	32	-	-
Brister	12	8	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
Calloway	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Foster	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Green	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	7
Hoge	-	-	-	-	6	1	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Johnson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1
Lipps	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
Mularkey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Stone	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
W. Williams	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Woodson	-	-	-	-	-	1°	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

* interception.

° punt return.

Key for Broncos: John be nimble, John be quick

By JOSEPH SANCHEZ
Denver Post

If Denver had a quarterback it could count on, the 1991 season could be considerably different than the one the Broncos experienced in 1990.

But the Broncos don't have such a quarterback. Really. Instead, they have John Elway, who at thirtysomething is not getting better. He's getting older.

And more erratic.

And less able to work miracles, with a bulging disk in his back leaving him considerably less nimble than he used to be.

The Broncos also have Gary Kubiak, their longtime backup. However, Kubiak can't be counted on for the opening of training camp after undergoing surgery to repair a ruptured disk. And then there's rookie Shawn Moore, the former Virginia standout. His magnificent collegiate talents may not convert to the professional game.

It was the erratic play of Elway and an endless series of devastating injuries on defense that caused the collapse of the Broncos last year, dropping them from an 11-5 Super Bowl team to a 5-11 division doormat. Denver led at half-time in 12 games last season, but the Broncos faltered time and again. All too often, Elway turnovers set up the opposition's comeback.

"We just didn't make the play when we had to late in the game," said Elway, reflecting on last season. "The



Stubborn Bronco: Despite playing on a tender ankle for half of the 1990 season, running back Bobby Humphrey was Denver's most productive player.

strange part is that we had always been a team that did that."

So, as the Broncos—one of the most successful teams in pro football in the 1980s—try to rebound in the 1990s, they go about the task at hand with some critical question marks at the most crucial position.

Yet things may not be as bad as they seem.

Having teams like New England appear twice on the 1991 schedule can do wonders for an ailing team. As the last-

place finisher in the American Football Conference's Western Division last year, Denver will have one of the true patsy schedules in the league.

The Broncos also will have a roster that has been fortified by three rookies who were regarded as among the best at their positions in college football—outside linebacker Mike Croel of Nebraska, tight end Reggie Johnson of Florida State and inside linebacker Keith Traylor of Central State (Okla.).

And they also should have two key defenders back. End Alphonso Carreker, who was on injured reserve all of last year, and cornerback Tyrone Braxton, who missed most of the season, are healthy once more.

If the Broncos can figure out a way to put some maturity into Elway's game and keep him and the rest of the roster reasonably healthy, they could be a contender again. Just ask their coach.

"Don't count us out," Dan Reeves said. "If you look at what happened last year, we played everybody tough and we really weren't that far out of it. We just have to get a little bit better."

COACHING

Over the last 10 years, Reeves proved he could coach with the best of them, but there may now be some question about his talent-acquisition skills. Last year was Reeves' first with a roster totally of his own making. After a steady run of 11-5-type teams built at least partially on talent obtained by John Ralston and Red Miller, the Broncos went 5-11 in 1990.

"Great players make great coaches," Reeves said. "It ain't the other way around."

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—With Elway and Kubiak nursing those bad backs, the Broncos went into the draft looking for

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: With the questions at quarterback, the loss of Gerald Perry at left tackle and the lack of depth at running back, the only area that appears to be a real strength is linebacker. Karl Mecklenburg and Simon Fletcher will team with first-round draftee Mike Croel and some other promising young linebackers in what could develop into a dominant four- or five-man alignment. Pro Bowler Steve Atwater is a tough customer at safety.

Weaknesses: The erratic play of John Elway was a serious problem for the Broncos last year, and that was when he and Gary Kubiak were reasonably healthy. If that goes uncorrected, it could be devastating. For more bad news, the Broncos fielded a defensive line last year that may have been the weakest in pro football—and that shortcoming went virtually unaddressed in the off-season.

Keys to success: Good health and renewed mobility for Elway and solid protection from the offensive line.

Sure sign of trouble: Any point in the season when Elway complains about burnout, the smothering media or a non-communicative coach.

That's a fact: In the last 15 seasons, Denver has won 10 or more games nine times.

Coach Dan Reeves says: "There's no question the other teams in our division have gotten better. So that means we have to get better if we want to get back where we used to be as the team everybody else was gunning for."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	V. Johnson	Russell	Nattiel
LT	Hamilton	Davidson	Da. Widell
LG	Juriga	Farrell	
C	Kartz	Subis	
RG	Da. Widell		
RT	Lanier	Da. Widell	
TE	Kay	R. Johnson	Sharpe
WR	Jackson	Mayfield	
QB	Elway	Moore	Kubiak
HB	Humphrey	Lewis	G. Green
FB	Bratton	Sewell	Perryman

DEFENSE

LE	Carreker	Powers	Galloway
NT	Kragen	Gibson	
RE	Holmes	Walker	Szymanski
LOLB	Fletcher	Mills	Haliburton
LILB	Mecklenburg	Thompson	
RILB	Brooks	Traylor	
ROLB	Croel	Lucas	
LCB	Braxton	Dimry	Lang
RCB	Henderson	Clark	
SS	Atwater	Smith	
FS	Montgomery	Robbins	

SPECIALISTS

K	Treadwell		
P	Horan		
KR	Clark	Lewis	Mayfield
PR	Clark		

a hot young prospect to begin to develop behind Elway. The player they had in mind was Dan McGwire of San Diego State, but Seattle snapped him up with the 16th pick of the draft. Denver then waited until the 11th round before selecting Moore.

Moore likely will be Elway's backup to open the season, unless the Broncos pick up a Tony Eason-type player. Kubiak's future is very much in question, since he always has been a player of limited athletic ability who can't afford physical handicaps.

If Elway's back woes ease to the point where his basic mobility of old returns, it would signal big trouble for the opposition.

RUNNING BACKS—Bobby Humphrey played on a tender ankle for half of the 1990 season, but he still was the most productive player on Denver's roster (as well as the fifth-most productive rusher in the league with 1,202 yards).

Denver's "dream backfield" has never fully developed, however, as Melvin Bratton has been less than ordinary at fullback, failing to produce in the short-yardage offense. That problem isn't likely to go away, but Reeves thinks he might have drafted "a bigger Sammy Winder" to back up Humphrey in rookie Greg Lewis of Washington. Reeves should be so lucky.

RECEIVERS—Once a team strength, the Broncos lost faith last year in the Three Amigos (Vance Johnson, Mark Jackson and Ricky Nattiel) and lost patience with their tight ends. As a result, say hello to rookie wide receivers Derek Russell of Arkansas and Curtis Mayfield of Oklahoma State and rookie tight end Reggie Johnson of Florida State. They'll probably be around for a while.

In truth, veteran wide receivers Jackson and Vance Johnson were as prolific as usual in 1990, leaving the blame for a subpar attack on the tight ends and the quarterback. Since Reggie Johnson already has been described as "another Clarence Kay" because of his blocking ability, the trouble-prone Kay's days probably are numbered.

LINEMEN—The last thing a guy with a bulging disk needs is a hole where the left tackle used to be. Having traded that tackle, Gerald Perry, to the Los Angeles Rams, the Broncos will focus training-camp attention on the protection of Elway's blind side.

Young Darrell Hamilton was almost adequate in extended late-season duty at left tackle, but veteran guard Jim Juriga will get a look there, too. Juriga, who also has a bad back, failed at that spot once before, so this could come down to choosing among Hamilton, second-year man Jeff Davidson and recycled veteran Dave Widell.

Denver is solid elsewhere, with Keith Kartz at center, Juriga at left guard, Doug Widell at right guard and 11-year veteran Ken Lanier at right tackle.

1991 DENVER BRONCOS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL Exp.	College	How acq.	'90 Games GP/GS
Elway, John	6-3/215	6-28-60	9	Stanford	T-Bal/83	16/16
Kubiak, Gary	6-0/192	8-15-61	9	Texas A&M	D8/83	16/0
Moore, Shawn	6-1/214	4-4-68	R	Virginia	D11/91	—
RUNNING BACKS						
Bratton, Melvin (FB)	6-1/225	2-2-65	3	Miami (Fla.)	D7/89	16/3
Ezor, Blake	5-9/183	10-11-66	2	Michigan State	FA/90	9/0
Green, Gaston	5-11/192	8-1-66	5	UCLA	T-Ram/91	*15/2
Humphrey, Bobby	6-1/201	10-11-66	3	Alabama	SupD 1/89	15/14
Lewis, Greg	5-10/201	8-10-69	R	Washington	D5/91	—
Perryman, Robert (FB)	6-2/233	10-16-64	6	Michigan	PlanB/91	*8/7
Sewell, Steve (FB)	6-3/210	4-2-63	7	Oklahoma	D1/85	12/1
RECEIVERS						
Green, Paul (TE)	6-3/230	10-8-66	3	Southern California	D8/89	0/0
Jackson, Mark	5-9/180	7-23-63	6	Purdue	D6a/86	16/15
Johnson, Reggie (TE)	6-2/252	1-27-68	R	Florida State	D2/91	—
Johnson, Vance	5-11/185	3-13-63	7	Arizona	D2/85	16/13
Kay, Clarence (TE)	6-2/237	7-30-61	8	Georgia	D7/84	16/14
Mayfield, Curtis	5-11/176	3-23-68	R	Oklahoma State	D10/91	—
Nattiel, Ricky	5-9/180	1-25-66	5	Florida	D1/87	15/3
Russell, Derek	5-11/179	7-22-69	R	Arkansas	D4/91	—
Sharpe, Shannon	6-2/225	6-26-68	2	Savannah (Ga.) State	D7/90	16/2
Stallworth, Tim	5-10/185	8-26-66	1	Washington State	FA/90	1/0
Verhulst, Chris (TE)	6-2/249	5-16-66	4	Chico (Calif.) State	PlanB/90	11/1
Young, Mike	6-1/183	2-21-62	7	UCLA	PlanB/89	16/1
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Beavers, Scott	6-4/277	2-17-67	2	Georgia Tech	FA/90	2/0
Davidson, Jeff (G)	6-5/309	10-3-67	2	Ohio State	D5/90	12/0
Farrell, Sean (G)	6-3/260	5-25-60	10	Penn State	W-NE/90	5/0
Hamilton, Darrell (T)	6-5/298	5-11-65	3	North Carolina	FA/90	15/8
Juriga, Jim (T)	6-6/275	9-12-64	4	Illinois	D4/86	12/11
Kartz, Keith (C)	6-4/270	5-5-63	5	California	FA/87	16/16
Ker, Crawford (G)	6-3/285	5-5-62	8	Florida	PlanB/91	*15/15
Lanier, Ken (T)	6-3/290	7-8-59	11	Florida State	D5/81	16/16
Parkinson, Brent	6-5/267	5-26-67	1	Southern California	FA/90	0/0
Smith, Monte (G)	6-4/270	4-24-67	3	North Dakota	D9/89	0/0
Subis, Nick (T)	6-4/278	12-24-67	R	San Diego State	D6/91	—
Widell, Dave (T)	6-6/292	5-14-65	4	Boston College	T-Dal/91	16/5
Widell, Doug (G)	6-4/287	9-23-66	3	Boston College	D2/89	16/16
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Carreker, Alphonso (E)	6-6/272	5-25-62	8	Florida State	PlanB/89	IR
Galloway, David (E)	6-3/265	2-16-59	10	Florida	T-Pho/90	10/0
Gibson, Don	6-2/265	3-4-68	R	Southern California	D9/91	—
Holmes, Ron (E)	6-4/265	8-26-63	7	Washington	T-TB/89	14/10
Kragen, Greg (NT)	6-3/265	3-4-62	7	Utah State	FA/85	16/16
Powers, Warren (E)	6-6/287	2-4-65	3	Maryland	D2a/89	16/16
Szymanski, Jim (E)	6-5/268	9-7-67	2	Michigan State	D10/90	6/6
Townsend, Andre (NT)	6-3/265	10-8-62	8	Mississippi	D2/84	15/0
Walker, Kenny (E)	6-2/230	3-4-68	R	Nebraska	D8/91	—
LINEBACKERS						
Brooks, Michael	6-1/235	10-2-64	5	Louisiana State	D3/87	16/16
Croel, Mike	6-3/225	6-6-69	R	Nebraska	D1/91	—
Curtis, Scott	6-1/230	12-26-64	4	New Hampshire	PlanB/89	9/1
Dennison, Rick	6-3/220	6-22-58	10	Colorado State	FA/82	13/0
Fletcher, Simon	6-5/240	2-18-62	7	Houston	D2b/85	16/16
Haliburton, Ronnie	6-4/230	4-14-68	2	Louisiana State	D6/90	9/0
Lucas, Tim	6-3/230	4-3-61	5	California	FA/87	11/5
Mecklenburg, Karl	6-3/240	9-1-60	9	Minnesota	D12/83	16/16
Mills, Jeff	6-3/238	10-8-68	2	Nebraska	W-SD/90	*7/0
Thompson, Anthony	6-1/227	6-19-67	2	East Carolina	D10a/90	10/0
Traylor, Keith	6-2/253	9-3-69	R	Central (Okla.) State	D3/91	—
DEFENSIVE BACKS						
Atwater, Steve (S)	6-3/213	10-28-66	3	Arkansas	D1/89	15/15
Braxton, Tyrone (CB)	5-11/185	12-17-64	5	North Dakota State	D12/87	3/2
Clark, Kevin	5-10/185	6-8-64	4	San Jose State	FA/90	8/0
Corrington, Kip (S)	6-0/175	4-12-65	3	Texas A&M	T-Det/88	16/1
Dimry, Charles (CB)	6-0/175	1-31-66	5	UNLV	PlanB/91	*16/12
Henderson, Wymon (CB)	5-9/186	12-15-61	5	UNLV	PlanB/89	15/15
Lang, Le-Lo	5-11/185	1-23-67	2	Washington	D5a/90	6/0
Montgomery, Alton	6-0/195	6-16-68	2	Houston	D2/90	15/4
Robbins, Randy (S)	6-2/189	9-14-62	8	Arizona	D4/84	16/9
Smith, Dennis (S)	6-3/200	2-3-59	11	Southern California	D1/81	15/15
SPECIALISTS						
Horan, Mike (P)	5-11/190	2-1-59	8	Long Beach State	FA/86	15/0
Treadwell, David (K)	6-1/175	2-27-65	3	Clemson	T-Pho/89	16/0
OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP						
Tony Alford, RB; Tracy Bennett, K; Paul Cochran, OL; Fred Foggie, DB; Norris Hanes, WR; Marcus Hopkins, DB; Doug Jacobs, DL; Barry Johnson, WR; Matt McCall, OL; Eric Morgan, WR; Mark Murray, LB; Ernest Priester, WR; Reggie Rivers, RB; John Story, WR; Evins Tobler, DB; Sean Wilson, P; Jon Wood, DL.						

*Not with Broncos in 1990.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

DID YOU KNOW...

... that Denver's 5-11 record last year was the Broncos' worst mark since 1967, when they finished 3-11?

Continued

COACHES

Head coach: Dan Reeves.
Assistant coaches:
 Marvin Bass (special assistant).
 Barney Chavous (defensive assistant).
 Joe DeCamillis (defensive quality control).
 Mo Forte (running backs).
 George Henshaw (wide receivers).
 Pete Mangurian (offensive line).
 Al Miller (strength and conditioning).
 Mike Nolan (linebackers).
 Wade Phillips (defensive coordinator).
 Harold Richardson (tight ends/special teams).
 Mike Shanahan (offensive coordinator/quarterbacks).
 Ernie Stautner (defensive line).
 Charlie Waters (defensive backs).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1990 regular-season record: 5-11 (5th in AFC West); 3-5 in division; 4-8 in conference; 4-4 at home; 1-7 on road.

1990 playoff record: None.

Reeves' regular-season record: 90-61-1 in 10 seasons with Broncos.

Reeves' postseason record: 6-5 in five playoffs with Broncos (0-3 in Super Bowls).

Team record last five years: 45-33-1 (.576, ranks 6th in league in that span).

1990 team rankings:	AFC	NFL
Total offense.....	4	8
Rushing offense.....	8	14
Passing offense.....	3	7
Scoring offense.....	7	16
Total defense.....	10	20
Rushing defense.....	9	17
Passing defense.....	11	21
Scoring defense.....	12	23
Takeaways.....	11	25
Giveaways.....	T7	T13
Turnover differential.....	12	T24
Sacks.....	T8	T17
Sacks allowed.....	12	T21

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

Stadium (capacity): Mile High Stadium (76,273).

Ticket information: 303-433-7466.

Flagship radio station: KOA, 850 AM.

Training site: University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colo.; 303-623-5212.

1991 SCHEDULE

Sept. 1—CINCINNATI	2:00
Sept. 8—at L.A. Raiders	1:00
Sept. 15—SEATTLE	2:00
Sept. 22—SAN DIEGO	2:00
Sept. 29—at Minnesota	7:00
Oct. 6—at Houston	12:00
Oct. 13—Open date	
Oct. 20—KANSAS CITY	2:00
Oct. 27—at New England	1:00
Nov. 3—PITTSBURGH	6:00
Nov. 10—L.A. RAIDERS	2:00
Nov. 17—at Kansas City	12:00
Nov. 24—at Seattle	1:00
Dec. 1—NEW ENGLAND	2:00
Dec. 8—at Cleveland	1:00
Dec. 15—PHOENIX	2:00
Dec. 22—at San Diego	1:00

All times local. All games Sunday.

1990 RESULTS

Sept. 9—at L.A. Raiders	9-14
Sept. 17—KANSAS CITY	24-23
Sept. 23—SEATTLE (OT)	34-31
Sept. 30—at Buffalo	28-29
Oct. 8—CLEVELAND	29-30
Oct. 14—PITTSBURGH	17-34
Oct. 21—at Indianapolis	27-17
Oct. 28—Open date	
Nov. 4—at Minnesota	22-27
Nov. 11—at San Diego	7-19
Nov. 18—CHICAGO (OT)	13-16
Nov. 22—at Detroit	27-40
Dec. 2—L.A. RAIDERS	20-23
Dec. 9—at Kansas City	20-31
Dec. 16—SAN DIEGO	20-10
Dec. 23—at Seattle	12-17
Dec. 30—GREEN BAY	22-13

1990 LEADERS

Scoring (kicking): David Treadwell, 109 pts. (34/36 PATs, 25/34 FGs).

Scoring (touchdowns): Bobby Humphrey, 42 pts. (7 rushing).

Passing: John Elway, 3,526 yds. (502 att., 294 comp., 58.6%, 15 TDs, 14 int.).

Rushing: Bobby Humphrey, 1,202 yds. (288 att., 4.2 avg., 7 TDs).

Receptions: Mark Jackson, 57 (926 yds., 16.2 avg., 4 TDs).

Interceptions: Wymon Henderson, 2 (71 yds., 1 TD); Alton Montgomery, 2 (43 yds., 0 TDs); Steve Atwater, 2 (32 yds., 0 TDs).

Tackles: Michael Brooks, 175 (102 solo, 73 assisted).

Sacks: David Galloway, 11 (90 yds.).

Punting: Mike Horan, 44.4 avg. (58 punts, 1 blocked).

Punt returns: Kevin Clark, 7.6 avg. (21 att., 159 yds., 0 TDs).

Kickoff returns: Kevin Clark, 25.3 avg. (20 att., 505 yds., 0 TDs).

1990 FANTASY STATISTICS

Statistics included for current members of 1991 roster only.

Name	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING				Defensive TDs	Total TDs
	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	18-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs		
Bratton	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Elway	7	7	1	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
G. Green	-	-	-	-	-	1†	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Henderson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1
Humphrey	-	-	-	-	5	2	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Jackson	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
V. Johnson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Mecklenburg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1
Nattiel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Perryman	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Sewell	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Sharpe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Treadwell	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	8	-	34	-	-	-
Young	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4

* fumble recovery. * interception. † kickoff return.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—It was highly disappointing last season when left end Carreker went down with a knee injury and right end Ron Holmes had an off year. That's why Eric Swann, the man with no collegiate experience (but a first-round draft pick of the Phoenix Cardinals), came close to becoming a Bronco before Denver Owner Pat Bowlen finally was talked out of it.

If Carreker and Holmes rebound, things would be a lot less frustrating for standout nose tackle Greg Kragen. Another plus would be a significant contribution from Kenny Walker, the deaf pass-rush specialist from Nebraska.

LINEBACKERS—Exceptional linebacking has been a Broncos tradition dating to the mid-1970s when Randy Gradishar, Bob Swenson and Tom Jackson were kids. Production dropped off some when Karl Mecklenburg's knees started to go bad last year, but if rookie first-rounder Croel is everything he's expected to be, this will be the heart of the team again.

With Croel (4.4 seconds over 40 yards) on the right flank and sack ace Simon Fletcher (4.6 speed) on the left, teams will be forced to funnel their offense to the middle of the field, where Mecklenburg and Michael Brooks (or maybe even the 253-pound T aylor) will be waiting for them.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—One of the key things about drafting Croel, according to defensive coordinator Wade Phillips, is that strong safety Steve Atwater won't have to take the fourth wide receiver in man coverage. Croel will handle that task now, leaving Atwater free to do what he does best—head hunt.

It would be a major gain for the Broncos if Braxton can come back from a serious knee injury and return to form at left cornerback. Wymon Henderson holds forth at right corner. Phillips thinks Charles Dimry, who got burned repeatedly at Atlanta last year, was more a victim of the Falcons' system than he was of the Jerry Rices of the world.

Will this be the year that Dennis Smith, a secondary fixture since 1983, gives way? Second-year man Alton Montgomery appears ready to move into the free-safety slot.

SPECIAL TEAMS

For the last three seasons, Mike Horan has been the best punter in the National Football League in terms of field position. Last year, he also was the best in terms of overall average (44.4 yards). With 1989 Pro Bowler David Treadwell handling the extra points and field goals, Denver has a solid kicking game.

Kevin Clark developed into a top-notch kick returner last season; in fact, he wound up leading the NFL in kickoff returns with an average of 25.3 yards.



Chiefs hope to draw even more attention in '91

By RANDY COVITZ
Kansas City Star

The television networks have taken notice. So have the fans.

The Kansas City Chiefs' turnaround over the last two years was the best in the National Football League—a plus-seven improvement in the win column from a pre-Marty Schottenheimer 4-11-1 record in 1988 to an 11-5 mark in 1990.

In light of that, the Chiefs will be showcased six times on national TV this season, including a club-record three appearances on Monday night.

And the fans, encouraged by back-to-back winning seasons for the first time since 1972-1973, have returned. Kansas City ranked fifth in the NFL in attendance in 1990, averaging 70,024, second in club history only to the 72,756 figure attained in 1972, the year Arrowhead Stadium opened.

But is Schottenheimer satisfied? Hardly. The 17-16 loss to Miami in the opening round of the playoffs saw to that.

"There's nobody in this organization who is satisfied with 11-5," Schottenheimer said. "Eleven-and-five might as well be 6-10. You go for one thing, to grab the brass ring and win it all. We didn't do it, so we're not satisfied."

"I felt like last year was going to be the year. The disappointment and frustration of Miami, that loss, is going to



Spread the Word: After sitting out virtually two full seasons, running back Barry Word enjoyed a remarkable year by gaining 1,015 yards.

be a cornerstone of what we build on in 1991 and in the future."

COACHING

Schottenheimer calls it "the 12 o'clock rule," in which players and coaches must forget about Sunday's game by midnight. It's that kind of philosophy that prevented the Chiefs from getting too giddy last season after big victories and enabled them to bounce back from some gut-wrenching defeats (Kansas City suffered two final-play losses in 1990).

However, while Schottenheimer has been able to keep a team focused over the 16-game haul, he himself is just 2-5 in his career in the playoffs. "The last

two playoff losses (the first one as Cleveland Browns coach) have each been by one point," he said, "so maybe we're gaining on them."

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—After toiling 12 years for mostly mediocre teams, Steve DeBerg had a dream season in 1990, finishing as the NFL's third-ranked passer. Blessed for the first time in his career with an outstanding running game, DeBerg was at his best at executing play fakes that led to a career-best 23 touchdown passes and his third career 3,000-yard season.

More important, the formerly mistake-prone DeBerg was intercepted in just two games, and his string of 233 passes without an interception was the second-longest streak in NFL history.

The question is, at age 37, can he do it again? And, if not, who will? Journeyman Steve Pelluer, who attempted a mere five passes last season, has posed little threat to seize the job. Mike Elkins has thrown two career passes and played in the World League of American Football for some game-condition experience.

For insurance, the Chiefs signed Plan B free agent Mark Vlasic, who couldn't win the job at San Diego.

RUNNING BACKS—The selection of Harvey Williams of Louisiana State as their No. 1 draft choice will give the Chiefs more options on offense. The one-back set, featuring Barry Word or Christian Okoye, became too predictable last year, and Williams, who can run and catch, will keep defenses honest, especially on first and second downs.

"A great wide receiver catches it five times a game," receivers coach Al Saunders said. "You can throw it to a guy like Harvey five times and let him run it X number."

Word, who sat out virtually two full seasons before the Chiefs signed him as a free agent, had a remarkable year,

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: The Chiefs' aggressive defense can get to the quarterback and to the ball. Last year, Kansas City led the NFL in sacks with 60 and fumble recoveries with 25 while tying for the lead in takeaways with 45. That created good field position for a ball-control offense.

Weaknesses: The Chiefs lack speed in their receiving corps and kick-return game. They're also thin in backup help on both lines.

Key to success: A fast start. The Chiefs open with five of their first seven games at home and close with four of five on the road. The Chiefs need to have things wrapped up before finishing the season with road games against the San Francisco 49ers and Los Angeles Raiders.

Sure sign of trouble: An injury to Steve DeBerg. If he goes down, the Chiefs will have to count on quarterbacks who have yet to prove they can win—or play—in the NFL.

That's a fact: Since 1986, the Chiefs have blocked 15 punts, six field goals and two extra points.

Coach Marty Schottenheimer says: "I think we have learned how to win, and I don't think there's any reason we should expect anything less in 1991 than the thing we expected when I came here in February 1989, and that's to win a world's championship."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Paige	Birden	Harry
LT	Alt	Graham	
LG	Szott	Winters	L. Williams
C	Grunhard	Winters	
RG	Lutz	Winters	Shipley
RT	Baldinger	Valerio	
TE	Hayes	Holohan	Whitaker
WR	R. Thomas	Barnett	F. Jones
QB	DeBerg	Vlasic	Elkins
HB	H. Williams	McNair	Stradford
RB	Word	Okoye	B. Jones

DEFENSE

LE	Smith	Griffin	Stallworth
NT	Saleaumua	Sims	Swoopes
RE	Maas	Stallworth	Bell
LOLB	Martin	Shaw	Charlton
LILB	Snow	Rogers	
RILB	Hackett	Munford	
ROLB	D. Thomas	Marts	Simien
LCB	Lewis	Pearson	Hoskins
RCB	Ross	Petry	Malone
SS	Porter	Burruss	Ramsey
FS	Cherry	Washington	Mincy

SPECIALISTS

K	Lowery	Keen	
P	Barker	Keen	
KR	F. Jones	McNair	H. Williams
PR	Birden	Harry	Mincy

Continued

COACHES

Head coach: Marty Schottenheimer.
Assistant coaches:
 Bruce Arians (running backs).
 Russ Ball (assistant strength and conditioning).
 Bill Cowher (defensive coordinator/linebackers).
 Tony Dungy (defensive backs).
 Jim Erkenbeck (offense/tight ends).
 Howard Mudd (offensive line).
 Joe Pendry (offensive coordinator/quarterbacks).
 Tom Pratt (defensive line).
 Dave Redding (strength and conditioning).
 Al Saunders (receivers).
 Kurt Schottenheimer (special teams).
 Darwin Wallis (quality control).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1990 regular-season record: 11-5 (2nd in AFC West); 5-3 in division; 7-5 in conference; 6-2 at home; 5-3 on road.

1990 playoff record: Lost to Dolphins, 17-16, in AFC wild-card game.

Schottenheimer's regular-season record: 19-12-1 in two seasons with Chiefs; 63-39-1 overall in seven NFL seasons with Chiefs and Browns.

Schottenheimer's postseason record: 0-1 in one playoff with Chiefs; 2-5 overall in five playoffs with Chiefs and Browns.

Team record last five years: 37-40-2 (.481, ranks 17th in league in that span).

1990 team rankings:	AFC	NFL
Total offense.....	3	7
Rushing offense.....	6	10
Passing offense.....	4	9
Scoring offense.....	3	6
Total defense.....	8	16
Rushing defense.....	5	12
Passing defense.....	10	17
Scoring defense.....	3	5
Takeaways.....	1	T1
Giveaways.....	1	2
Turnover differential.....	1	1
Sacks.....	1	1
Sacks allowed.....	3	T4

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

Stadium (capacity): Arrowhead Stadium (78,067).

Ticket information: 816-924-9300.

Flagship radio station: KCFX, 101.1 FM.

Training site: U. of Wisconsin-River Falls, River Falls, Wis.; 816-924-9300.

1991 SCHEDULE

Sept. 1	—ATLANTA	12:00
Sept. 8	—NEW ORLEANS	12:00
Sept. 16	—at Houston (Mon.)	8:00
Sept. 22	—SEATTLE	3:00
Sept. 29	—at San Diego	1:00
Oct. 7	—BUFFALO (Mon.)	8:00
Oct. 13	—MIAMI	3:00
Oct. 20	—at Denver	2:00
Oct. 28	—L.A. RAIDERS (Mon.)	8:00
Nov. 3	—Open date	
Nov. 10	—at L.A. Rams	1:00
Nov. 17	—DENVER	12:00
Nov. 24	—at Cleveland	1:00
Dec. 1	—at Seattle	1:00
Dec. 8	—SAN DIEGO	12:00
Dec. 14	—at San Francisco (Sat.)	1:00
Dec. 22	—at L.A. Raiders	1:00

All times local. All games Sunday unless noted.

1990 RESULTS

Sept. 9	—MINNESOTA	24-21
Sept. 17	—at Denver	23-24
Sept. 23	—at Green Bay	17-3
Sept. 30	—CLEVELAND	34-0
Oct. 7	—at Indianapolis	19-23
Oct. 14	—DETROIT	43-24
Oct. 21	—at Seattle	7-19
Oct. 28	—Open date	
Nov. 4	—L.A. RAIDERS	9-7
Nov. 11	—SEATTLE	16-17
Nov. 18	—SAN DIEGO	27-10
Nov. 25	—at L.A. Raiders	27-24
Dec. 2	—at New England	37-7
Dec. 9	—DENVER	31-20
Dec. 16	—HOUSTON	10-27
Dec. 23	—at San Diego	24-21
Dec. 29	—at Chicago	21-10

1990 LEADERS

Scoring (kicking): Nick Lowery, 139 pts. (37/38 PATs, 34/37 FGs).
Scoring (touchdowns): Christian Okoye, 42 pts. (7 rushing).
Passing: Steve DeBerg, 3,444 yds. (444 att., 258 comp., 58.1%, 23 TDs, 4 int.).
Rushing: Barry Word, 1,015 yds. (204 att., 4 TDs).
Receptions: Stephone Paige, 65 (1,021 yds., 5 TDs).
Interceptions: Kevin Ross, 5 (97 yds., 0 TDs).
Tackles: Dino Hackett, 95 (53 solo, 42 assisted).
Sacks: Derrick Thomas, 20 (150 yds.).
Punting: Bryan Barker, 38.7 avg. (64 punts).
Punt returns: Naz Worthen, 7.2 avg. (25 att.).
Kickoff returns: Todd McNair, 16.2 avg. (14 att.).

1990 FANTASY STATISTICS

Statistics included for current members of 1991 roster only.

Name	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING				Defensive TDs	Total TDs
	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	18-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs		
R. Bell	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Birden	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
DeBerg	7	9	7	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23
Harry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Hayes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Holohan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
B. Jones	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Lowery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	6	—	37	—	—
Martin	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1†	1
McNair	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Okoye	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Paige	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	5
Petry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1*	1
Ross	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1†	1
Saleaumua	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1*	1
Stradford	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
R. Thomas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Vlasic	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Whitaker	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Word	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4

* fumble recovery. * interception. † blocked punt.

gaining 1,015 yards rushing in 1990 despite starting just three games. Word's ability to break runs outside gave him an edge over Okoye, who often was bottled up by defenses overplaying the run. Still, Okoye rushed for 805 yards and could be prime trade bait.

Williams' selection gave the Chiefs 13 running backs on their roster. His presence could make things precarious for halfback Todd McNair, who caught 40 passes, mostly in nickel situations, as well as Plan B signees Troy Stradford and Richard Bell.

Unless there's a trade or they make it on special teams, Bill Jones (an effective blocking back), James Saxon, Kenny Gamble and former Phoenix Cardinal Stump Mitchell could be hard pressed to win jobs.

RECEIVERS—The Chiefs are a real paradox at wide receiver. Other than diminutive J.J. Birden, the Chiefs lack speed to get deep. Yet they accounted for three of the five longest pass plays in the NFL last year—a 90-yarder to Birden and bombs of 86 and 83 yards to Stephone Paige, who enjoyed the best season of his eight-year career.

Third-round draftee Tim Barnett was impressive in mini-camp and could win a starting job. Second-year receiver Fred Jones, who was hampered by injuries last season, will get a chance to show his speed this year. Robb Thomas (a textbook possession receiver) and Emile Harry (a third-down slot receiver) each had 41 catches last season.

The Chiefs signed veteran tight end Pete Holohan for his pass-catching skills, and he could be the perfect complement to Jonathan Hayes, a better blocker than receiver.

LINEMEN—They're big, they're young and they're good. Kansas City's forward wall allowed an immobile quarterback to be sacked just 22 times while paving the way for 121.8 yards rushing per game.

Two rookies, center Tim Grunhard, a 302-pounder, and left guard Dave Szott, a 278-pounder, won starting jobs last year, though Szott will be remembered for a critical holding call at the end of the Miami playoff loss. Left tackle John Alt, a 6-foot-8, 300-pound man-mountain, is one of the best pass blockers in the league, while hard-working Rich Baldinger is tenacious at right tackle. Dave Lutz, a 300-pound right guard, has remarkable agility for someone his size.

The Chiefs traded tackle Irv Eatman, who never fulfilled his potential in five years, and they're counting on second-round draft choice Joe Valerio and second-year man Derrick Graham to compete for that roster opening.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—The Chiefs play three- and four-man fronts and apply relentless pressure on quarterbacks. Left end Neil Smith, using his 7-foot wingspan, emerged as a genuine star last year, coming up with 9½ sacks, four forced

fumbles and several pass deflections. Bill Maas made a smooth transition from Pro Bowl nose tackle to right end; he had 5½ sacks and forced four fumbles.

When the ball is loose, nose tackle Dan Saleaumua is usually there to pounce on it. Built low to the ground, the squatly Samoan recovered six fumbles in 1990, including one for a touchdown, giving him 11 recoveries in two years—best in the NFL.

Leonard Griffin is a valuable backup at end, and the Chiefs hope Ron Stallworth, acquired from the New York Jets, can add depth.

LINEBACKERS—It was only three years ago that this was the Chiefs' weakest link. Now it's the strongest as the Chiefs spent their No. 1 draft picks on linebackers in 1989 and 1990.

Right outside linebacker Derrick Thomas led the league with 20 sacks last season, including an NFL-record seven in one game, and he has been a Pro Bowler in both of his NFL seasons. Left outside linebacker Chris Martin is the inspirational leader of this group and its most consistent player. Inside linebacker Dino Hackett, enjoying his first injury-free season in four years, led the Chiefs in tackles for the third time in five years. And Percy Snow lived up to expectations after a rocky start.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—Pro Bowl cornerbacks Albert Lewis and Kevin Ross are nonpareil. Their ability to cover one-on-one enables the Chiefs to pressure the quarterback with linebackers and safeties. However, when extra corners were needed against run-and-shoot offenses, the Chiefs had problems covering, as illustrated by Warren Moon's 527-yard passing day against Kansas City.

Strong safety Kevin Porter is a vicious hitter, and veteran Lloyd Burruss replaces him in nickel situations. Perennial Pro Bowler Deron Cherry is expected to be 100 percent recovered from 1989 knee surgery, but his two backups at free safety, Jeff Donaldson and Danny Copeland, went the Plan B route, leaving no experience behind him.

SPECIAL TEAMS

A bigger and stronger Nick Lowery, the most accurate field-goal kicker in NFL history (79 percent), returned to the Pro Bowl last season after leading the NFL in scoring (139 points) and field goals (34). Lowery made 91.9 percent of his field-goal attempts in '90, the fourth-best percentage in league annals.

The Chiefs drafted Robbie Keen from California to challenge punter Bryan Barker. Keen also can kick off.

The Chiefs' kick-return game was awful last season, but their punt blocking was outstanding. Lewis blocked four punts, running his career total to 10.



1991 KANSAS CITY CHIEFS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL Exp.	College	How acq.	'90 Games GP/GS
DeBerg, Steve	6-3/214	1-19-54	15	San Jose State	T-TB/88	16/16
Elkins, Mike	6-3/225	7-20-66	3	Wake Forest	D2/89	0/0
Pelluer, Steve	6-4/212	7-29-62	8	Washington	T-Dal/89	13/0
Vlasic, Mark	6-3/206	10-25-63	4	Iowa	PlanB/91	*6/1
RUNNING BACKS						
Bell, Richard	6-0/200	5-3-67	2	Nebraska	PlanB/91	*16/1
Gamble, Kenny (KR)	5-10/206	3-8-65	4	Colgate	D10/88	1/0
Jones, Bill	5-11/228	9-10-66	3	Southwest Texas State	FA/90	15/0
McNair, Todd (KR)	6-1/197	10-7-65	3	Temple	D8b/89	15/1
Mitchell, Stump	5-9/194	3-15-59	10	The Citadel	FA/91	0/0
Okoye, Christian	6-1/260	8-16-61	5	Azusa (Calif.) Pacific	D2/87	14/13
Saxon, James	5-11/225	3-23-66	4	San Jose State	D6/88	6/0
Stradford, Troy	5-9/192	9-11-64	5	Boston College	PlanB/91	*14/0
Williams, Harvey	6-2/218	4-22-67	R	Louisiana State	D1/91	—
Word, Barry	6-2/240	7-17-64	3	Virginia	FA/90	16/3
RECEIVERS						
Barnes, Lew (KR)	5-8/170	12-27-62	4	Oregon	FA/91	0/0
Barnett, Tim	6-1/209	4-19-66	R	Jackson State	D3/91	—
Birden, J.J. (KR)	5-9/160	6-16-65	3	Oregon	FA/90	11/0
Dixon, Titus	5-6/152	6-15-66	2	Troy (Ala.) State	FA/91	0/0
Harry, Emile	5-11/188	4-5-63	5	Stanford	FA/86	16/1
Hayes, Jonathan (TE)	6-5/254	8-11-62	7	Iowa	D2/85	12/11
Holohan, Pete (TE)	6-4/235	7-25-59	11	Notre Dame	PlanB/91	*16/10
Jones, Fred (KR)	5-9/175	3-6-67	2	Grambling State	D4/90	6/0
Oliver, Bobby	5-11/158	4-22-69	R	Ohio State	D11/91	—
Paige, Stephane	6-2/188	10-15-61	9	Fresno State	FA/83	16/16
Sadowski, Troy (TE)	6-5/265	12-8-65	2	Georgia	PlanB/91	*13/1
Thomas, Robb	5-11/174	3-29-66	3	Oregon State	D6/89	16/12
Whitaker, Danta (TE)	6-4/248	3-14-64	3	Mississippi Valley State	FA/90	16/3
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Alt, John (T)	6-8/296	5-30-62	8	Iowa	D1b/84	16/16
Baldinger, Rich (T)	6-4/291	12-31-59	10	Wake Forest	FA/83	16/16
Dohring, Tom (T)	6-6/290	5-24-68	R	Michigan	D8/91	—
Frank, Garry (G)	6-2/292	12-20-64	2	Mississippi State	FA/91	0/0
Graham, Derrick (T)	6-4/306	3-18-67	2	Appalachian State	D5a/90	6/0
Grunhard, Tim (C)	6-2/302	5-17-68	2	Notre Dame	D2/90	14/9
Harris, Michael (G)	6-4/306	8-30-66	3	Grambling State	FA/91	0/0
Lutz, David (G)	6-6/305	12-30-59	9	Georgia Tech	D2/83	16/15
Shipley, Ron (G)	6-4/298	8-17-68	R	New Mexico	D12/91	—
Scott, David (G)	6-4/278	12-12-67	2	Penn State	D7/90	16/11
Valerio, Joe (T)	6-5/293	2-11-69	R	Pennsylvania	D2/91	—
Williams, Larry (G)	6-5/290	7-3-63	4	Notre Dame	FA/91	0/0
Winters, Frank (G/C)	6-3/285	1-23-64	5	Western Illinois	PlanB/90	16/6
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Bell, Mike (E)	6-4/266	8-30-57	11	Colorado State	D1a/79	16/2
Fears, Willie (E/NT)	6-4/287	6-4-64	3	Northwestern (La.) State	FA/91	*2/0
Griffin, Leonard (E)	6-4/275	9-22-62	6	Grambling State	D3/86	16/16
Maas, Bill (E)	6-5/270	12-19-62	8	Pittsburgh	D1a/84	16/15
Saleaumua, Dan (NT)	6-0/285	11-11-65	5	Arizona State	PlanB/89	16/16
Sims, Tom (NT)	6-2/285	4-18-67	2	Pittsburgh	D6/90	1R
Smith, Neil (E)	6-4/275	4-10-66	4	Nebraska	D1/88	16/15
Stallworth, Ron (E)	6-5/260	2-25-66	3	Auburn	T-NYJ/91	*16/16
Swoopes, Patrick (NT)	6-3/280	3-4-64	3	Mississippi State	FA/91	0/0
LINEBACKERS						
Charlton, Clifford	6-3/245	2-16-66	3	Florida	FA/91	0/0
Hackett, Dino	6-3/230	6-28-64	6	Appalachian State	D2/86	16/15
Henry, Maurice	5-11/220	3-12-67	2	Kansas State	FA/91	*7/0
Martin, Chris	6-2/245	12-19-60	9	Auburn	FA/88	16/16
Marts, Lonnie	6-1/235	11-10-68	2	Tulane	FA/90	1R
Munford, Marc	6-2/231	2-14-65	5	Nebraska	PlanB/91	*13/10
Rogers, Tracy	6-2/241	8-13-67	2	Fresno State	FA/90	10/0
Shaw, Ricky	6-4/240	7-28-65	4	Oklahoma State	PlanB/91	*8/0
Snow, Percy	6-2/248	11-5-67	2	Michigan State	D1/90	15/14
Thomas, Derrick	6-3/244	1-1-67	3	Alabama	D1/89	15/15
DEFENSIVE BACKS						
Allen, Patrick (CB)	5-10/182	8-26-61	8	Utah State	FA/91	*16/0
Bell, Billy (CB)	5-10/170	1-16-61	2	Lamar (Tex.)	FA/91	0/0
Burruss, Lloyd (S)	6-0/211	10-31-57	11	Maryland	D3c/81	16/1
Cherry, Deron (S)	5-11/205	9-12-59	11	Rutgers	FA/81	9/6
Ellison, Bernard (CB)	6-0/192	1-2-67	R	Nevada	D7/91	—
Lewis, Albert (CB)	6-2/190	10-6-60	9	Grambling State	D3/83	15/14
Malone, Darrell (CB/S)	5-10/182	11-23-67	R	Jacksonville (Ala.) State	D6/91	—
Mincy, Charles (S/CB)	5-11/187	12-16-69	R	Washington	D5/91	—
Pearson, Jayce (CB)	5-11/180	8-17-63	6	Washington	FA/86	16/5
Petry, Stan (CB)	5-11/180	8-14-66	3	Texas Christian	D3/89	16/2
Porter, Kevin (S)	5-10/214	4-11-66	4	Auburn	D3/88	16/14
Ramsey, Eric (S/CB)	5-11/189	7-1-68	R	Auburn	D10/91	—
Ross, Kevin (CB)	5-9/182	1-16-62	8	Temple	D7/84	16/15
Washington, Charles (CB)	6-1/210	10-8-66	3	Cameron (Okla.)	PlanB/90	6/0
SPECIALISTS						
Barker, Bryan (P)	6-1/187	6-28-64	2	Santa Clara (Calif.)	FA/90	13/0
Keen, Robbie (K)	6-3/213	8-2-68	R	California	D9/91	—
Lowery, Nick (K)	6-4/205	5-27-66	12	Dartmouth	FA/80	16/0
OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP						
Kimble Anders, RB; Greg Boysaw, S/CB; Willie Davis, WR; Chris Dunn, LB; Herman Ford, CB; Eric Hoskins, CB/S; Michael Owens, RB; Dwight Pickens, WR; Tracy Simien, LB; Ernest Thompson, RB.						

*Not with Chiefs in 1990.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

AFC West crown falls short of Shell's objective

By BOB COX
Daily Breeze

In the world of the Los Angeles Raiders, things are either black or white—er, silver. There's little room for gray areas.

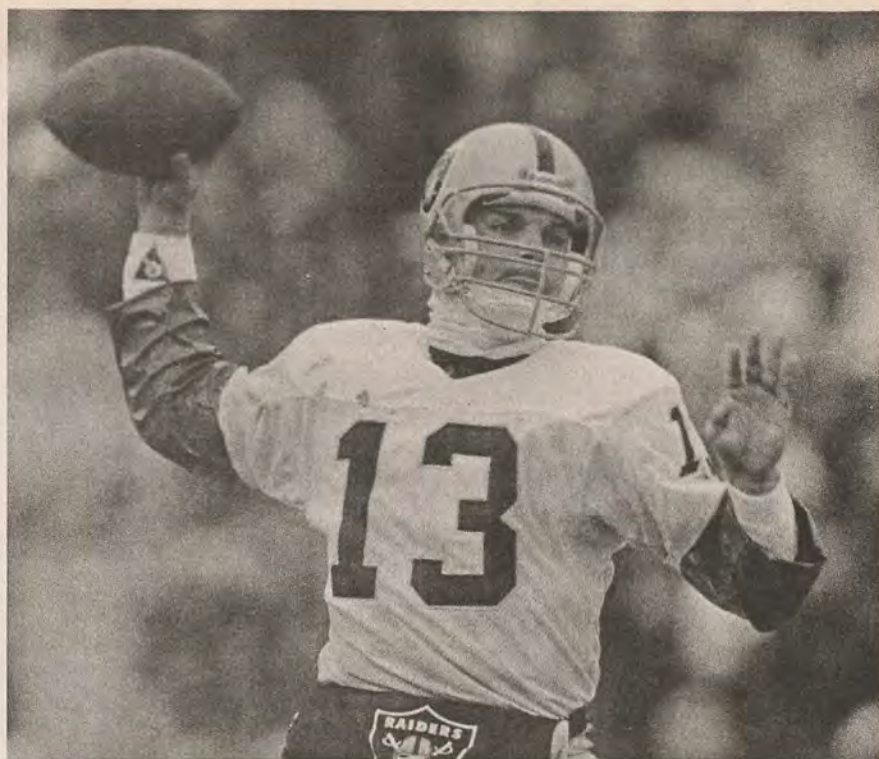
So, any tendency to portray 1990 as a good season for the Raiders—they won the American Football Conference Western Division championship and came within one victory of making the Super Bowl—is quickly dismissed.

The whipping that the Raiders took against Buffalo in the AFC title game is the reason for little gloating. Don't even mention the score (psst, it was 51-3 and probably could have been worse).

"We didn't get to the big game, which was our goal," Coach Art Shell said. "So I can't call last year a success."

Shell was used to playing in championship games as a Raider player. Most of the players he inherited when the Mike Shanahan Aberration was terminated early in the 1989 season weren't.

Only four players—Howie Long, Greg Townsend, Marcus Allen and Don Mosebar—remain from the Raiders' Super Bowl champions of the 1983 season. Once again, though, the Raiders have brought in outsiders with Super Bowl experience. This time, they signed safety Ronnie Lott and running back Roger Craig, both of whom were left unprotected by the San Francisco 49ers in the Plan B free-agent sweepstakes.



Coming of age: Jay Schroeder corrected mechanical flaws, learned to throw the ball away rather than force it and finished sixth in the NFL in passer rating last season.

While it's hard to call a season that ended with a 48-point defeat a "near miss," that's the feeling the Raiders took into training camp.

After four straight non-winning seasons, the Raiders returned to post-season play in a big way. And in the 1991 draft, they enjoyed the luxury of planning for the future. Only one of their top three picks (running back Nick Bell) figures to be a factor this year. Quarterback Todd Marinovich and Canadian Football League-bound Raghbir Ismail are far down the road.

COACHING

Shell collected a passel of coaching honors last year, but he'd quickly trade them all for another game at the end of the 1990 season.

Shell was unhappy when the Raiders finished 8-8 in 1989 after he took over from Shanahan following a 1-3 start. Last season, he was disappointed despite a 12-4 regular-season record because the Raiders fell short of the Super Bowl. What will his disposition be like after the 1991 season?

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—Jay Schroeder bashers will have to pick on someone else after his nearly error-free season. Working with quarterbacks coach Mike White, Schroeder corrected mechanical flaws, learned to throw the ball away rather than force it (thus cutting down his interceptions) and finished sixth in the National Football League's passer ratings.

Most important, his touchdowns/interceptions ratio was 19/9. Back when he was playing for the Washington Redskins and throwing for 4,109 yards and

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: The defense allowed just four rushing touchdowns all season and ranked No. 4 in the NFL in fewest total yards allowed. Offensively, a grind-it-out game, coupled with occasional long (and accurate) passes by a confident Jay Schroeder, has gotten good results. The secondary appears upgraded with the addition of Ronnie Lott.

Weaknesses: The offense was geared to staying in games, and when it had to play catch-up in the AFC championship game, it self-destructed in a rash of turnovers. Special teams were just short of a disaster, and that's an area in which the Raiders take pride.

Key to success: Integrating Roger Craig into the tailback committee, especially with the possibility (probability?) that Bo Jackson's football career is at an end.

Sure sign of trouble: If problems develop among running backs Craig, Marcus Allen, Greg Bell and Nick Bell over playing time. There are only 30 or so rushing attempts a game, and all but Nick Bell, a rookie, are accustomed to making 20 or more carries per outing.

That's a fact: You have to go back to the opening game of 1961 (a 55-0 loss to Houston) to find a worse defeat for the Raiders than their 51-3 shellacking by Buffalo in last season's AFC title game.

Coach Art Shell says: "Our goal for next year is to be picking 28th in the draft, because that will mean we won the big game."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Gault	Graddy	Holland
LT	Graves	Patten	FitzPatrick
LG	Wisniewski	Peat	Harrell
C	Mosebar	Turk	Taotai
RG	Montoya	Grimes	Flory
RT	Wilkerson	Wright	McElroy
TE	Dyal	Horton	N. Bell
WR	Fernandez	T. Brown	Alexander
QB	Schroeder	Beuerlein	Marinovich
HB	Allen	Craig	G. Bell
FB	S. Smith	McCallum	N. Bell

DEFENSE

LE	Long	Wise	Mark
DT	Golic	Harrison	Rother
DT	S. Davis	Charles	Rother
RE	Townsend	A. Smith	E. King
OLB	Robinson	Moss	Wallace
MLB	Ellison	Burton	B. Jones
OLB	Benson	Jimerson	Alston
LCB	McDaniel	G. Lewis	R. Brown
RCB	Washington	Dorn	Patterson
SS	Lott	Patterson	Harden
FS	Anderson	Land	Glenn

SPECIALISTS

K	Jaeger	Gossett	
P	Gossett	Schroeder	
KR	R. Brown	Holland	S. Adams
PR	T. Brown	McCallum	Fernandez

going to the Pro Bowl (the 1986 season), the figures were 22/22. In two previous seasons with the Raiders, he had a combined 21/26.

The Raiders didn't ask Schroeder to be spectacular, just solid, and he responded well last season. Forget the five interceptions at Buffalo, since three of those came when the game was already lost.

The Raiders drafted Marinovich to be the third-stringer for a couple of years while he studies old Kenny Stabler films. Steve Beuerlein and Vince Evans, 36, figure to battle for the No. 2 job, with a Beuerlein trade being much talked about as summer began.

RUNNING BACKS—Shell opted for the "committee approach" at tailback last year, and the trio of Bo Jackson, Allen and Greg Bell responded with 1,544 yards and 18 touchdowns on the ground.

This year's burning question concerns Jackson's hip—and whether he'll ever play football again. Jackson suffered a serious hip injury when he was tackled during the Raiders' 20-10 victory over Cincinnati in their first playoff game. His spring/summer employer, the Kansas City Royals, considered the injury so serious that they released him. The Chicago White Sox later picked him up, and there was hope that he would be swinging a bat in new Comiskey Park by September. As for carrying a football in the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, that would be an even greater feat.

Just in case, the Raiders signed the 31-year-old Craig to team with Allen, also 31. Bell was given a chance to shop his skills via Plan B but opted to stay with the Raiders.

Also added to the equation is second-round draft pick Nick Bell, who has the size of Christian Okoye and more speed than Allen or Craig.

Steve Smith remains the blue-collar blocking back, and the Raiders think he's one of the best in the business.

RECEIVERS—While the Raiders' track team probably would win a league-wide relay race, Los Angeles' passing game ranked only 23rd in the league last season.

Willie Gault averaged 19.7 yards per catch, the second-best figure among NFL receivers with 40 or more receptions. He caught a career-high 50 passes, while Mervyn Fernandez had a team-high 52. Tim Brown, the team's No. 3 wide receiver, had only 18 catches last year after undergoing knee surgery in 1989.

One-time running back Ethan Horton replaced injured Mike Dyal at tight end and pulled in 33 receptions. That wasn't a Todd Christensen-type number, certainly, but Shell wants his wideouts to be the primary pass catchers, not the tight end. Dyal, who averaged 18.5 yards per catch in 1989 while snaring 27 passes, figures to win back his job. Horton's average last season was 12.2.

Continued

1991 LOS ANGELES RAIDERS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL Exp.	College	How acq.	'90 Games GP/GS
Beuerlein, Steve	6-2/210	3-7-65	3	Notre Dame	D4/87	0/0
Evans, Vince	6-2/210	6-14-55	12	Southern California	FA/90	5/0
Marinovich, Todd	6-4/220	7-4-69	R	Southern California	D1/91	—
Schroeder, Jay	6-4/215	6-28-61	8	UCLA	T-Was/88	16/16
RUNNING BACKS						
Allen, Marcus	6-2/210	3-26-60	10	Southern California	D1/82	16/15
Bell, Greg	5-10/210	8-1-62	8	Notre Dame	T-Ram/90	6/0
Bell, Mick	6-2/250	8-19-68	R	Iowa	D2/91	—
Craig, Roger	6-0/225	7-10-60	9	Nebraska	PlanB/91	*11/11
Jackson, Bo	6-1/230	11-30-62	5	Auburn	D7/87	10/0
McCallum, Napoleon	6-2/225	10-6-63	3	Navy	T-SD/90	16/0
Mueller, Vance	6-0/220	5-5-64	6	Occidental	D4/86	16/1
Smith, Steve	6-1/240	8-30-64	5	Penn State	D3/87	16/15
RECEIVERS						
Adams, Stefan	5-10/185	8-11-63	6	East Carolina	PlanB/91	*12/0
Alexander, Mike	6-3/185	3-19-65	2	Penn State	D8/88	IR
Brown, Tim	6-0/195	7-22-66	3	Notre Dame	D1/88	16/0
Dyal, Mike (TE)	6-2/240	5-20-66	3	Texas A&I	FA/89	3/2
Fernandez, Mervyn	6-3/205	12-29-59	5	San Jose State	D10/83	16/15
Gault, Willie	6-1/180	9-5-60	9	Tennessee	T-Chi/88	16/16
Glover, Andrew (TE)	6-6/225	8-12-68	R	Grambling State	D10/91	—
Graddy, Sam	5-10/180	7-10-64	4	Tennessee	PlanB/89	16/0
Holland, Jamie	6-1/195	2-1-64	5	Ohio State	T-SD/90	16/0
Horton, Ethan (TE)	6-4/240	12-19-62	5	North Carolina	FA/89	16/14
Tyler, Rob (TE)	6-5/255	10-12-65	2	South Carolina State	FA/91	0/0
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
FitzPatrick, James (T)	6-7/320	2-1-64	6	Southern California	PlanB/90	11/1
Graves, Rory (T)	6-6/295	7-21-63	4	Tennessee	FA/88	15/15
Harrell, Newt (G)	6-5/285	9-17-64	1	West Texas State	D10/88	—
McElroy, Reggie (T)	6-6/285	3-4-60	9	West Texas State	FA/91	IR
Montoya, Max (G)	6-5/290	5-12-56	13	UCLA	PlanB/90	16/16
Mosebar, Don (C)	6-6/280	9-11-61	9	Southern California	D1/83	16/16
Patten, Joel (T)	6-7/305	2-7-58	7	Duke	PlanB/91	*8/0
Peat, Todd (G)	6-2/315	5-20-64	4	Northern Illinois	FA/90	16/1
Turk, Dan (C)	6-4/275	8-25-62	8	Wisconsin	FA/89	16/0
Wilkerson, Bruce (T)	6-5/295	7-28-64	5	Tennessee	D2/87	8/1
Wisniewski, Steve (G)	6-4/280	4-7-67	3	Penn State	D2/89	16/16
Wright, Steve (T)	6-6/280	4-8-59	9	Northern Iowa	FA/88	16/16
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Charles, Mike (T)	6-5/315	9-23-62	9	Syracuse	FA/91	10/0
Davis, Scott (E)	6-7/275	8-7-65	4	Illinois	D1/88	16/16
Golic, Bob (T)	6-2/275	10-26-57	12	Notre Dame	PlanB/89	16/16
Harrison, Nolan (T)	6-5/290	1-25-69	R	Indiana	D6/91	—
King, Emanuel (E)	6-4/270	8-15-63	6	Alabama	FA/91	0/0
Long, Howie (E)	6-5/270	1-6-60	11	Villanova	D2/81	12/11
Mark, Greg (E)	6-3/260	7-7-67	2	Miami (Fla.)	FA/91	*6/0
Rother, Tim (T)	6-7/280	9-28-65	3	Nebraska	D4/88	4/0
Smith, Anthony (E)	6-3/265	6-28-67	1	Arizona	D1/90	IR
Townsend, Greg (E)	6-3/270	11-3-61	9	Texas Christian	D4/83	16/16
Wise, Mike (E)	6-7/270	6-5-64	5	UC Davis	D4/86	12/2
LINEBACKERS						
Alston, O'Brien	6-6/245	12-21-65	3	Maryland	PlanB/91	*IR
Benson, Tom	6-2/240	9-6-61	8	Oklahoma	PlanB/89	16/16
Burton, Ron	6-1/245	5-2-64	5	North Carolina	PlanB/90	5/0
Cofield, Tim	6-2/240	5-18-63	5	Elizabeth City (N.C.) State	FA/91	0/0
Ellison, Riki	6-2/230	8-15-60	8	Southern California	FA/90	16/15
Jimerson, A.J.	6-3/235	5-12-68	2	Norfolk (Va.) State	D8/90	4/0
Jones, Brian	6-1/240	1-27-68	R	Texas	D8/91	—
Klostermann, Bruce	6-4/235	4-17-63	4	South Dakota State	PlanB/91	*5/1
Moss, Winston	6-3/245	12-24-65	5	Miami (Fla.)	T-TB/91	*16/15
Robinson, Jerry	6-2/230	12-18-56	13	UCLA	T-Phi/85	16/16
Wallace, Aaron	6-3/235	4-17-67	2	Texas A&M	D2/90	16/0
Woulard, Todd	6-1/230	8-15-69	R	Alabama A&M	D8/91	—
DEFENSIVE BACKS						
Anderson, Eddie (S)	6-1/205	7-22-63	6	Fort Valley (Ga.) State	FA/87	16/16
Brown, Ron (CB)	5-11/185	3-3-61	8	Arizona State	PlanB/90	16/0
Dorn, Torin (CB)	6-0/190	2-28-68	2	North Carolina	D4/90	16/0
Glenn, Vencie (S)	6-0/190	10-26-64	6	Indiana State	PlanB/91	*14/14
Harden, Mike (S)	6-1/200	2-16-59	12	Michigan	FA/89	15/15
Johnson, Dennis (CB)	6-1/200	7-22-67	R	Winston-Salem (N.C.) St.	D12/91	—
Land, Dan (S)	6-0/195	7-3-65	3	Albany (Ga.) State	FA/89	16/0
Lee, Zeph (S)	6-3/215	6-17-63	3	Southern California	FA/91	—
Lewis, Garry (CB)	5-11/185	8-25-67	2	Alcorn State	D7/90	12/5
Lewis, Tahaun (CB)	5-10/175	9-29-68	R	Nebraska	D9/91	—
Lott, Ronnie (S)	6-0/200	5-8-59	11	Southern California	PlanB/91	*11/11
McDaniel, Terry (CB)	5-10/180	2-8-65	3	Tennessee	D1/88	16/13
Patterson, Elvis (CB)	5-11/195	10-21-60	8	Kansas	PlanB/90	16/1
Washington, Lionel (CB)	6-0/185	10-21-60	9	Tulane	T-STL/87	15/15
Wilson, Marcus (S)	6-1/200	4-16-68	1	Virginia	D4/86	0/0
SPECIALISTS						
Gossett, Jeff (P)	6-2/195	1-25-57	10	Eastern Illinois	T-Hou/88	16/0
Jaeger, Jeff (K)	5-11/195	11-26-64	4	Washington	PlanB/89	16/0
OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP						
Rob Flory, T; Jeff Grimes, G; Darrel Hopper, WR; Mike Jones, LB; Doug Lloyd, RB; Lyniel Mayo, LB; Sean Moore, RB; Brian Sap, RB; Malcolm Showell, DT; Josh Toatao, C; Jono Tunney, LB; Frank White, WR; Keith Wright, WR; Charles Young, RB.						

*Not with Raiders in 1990.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

COACHES

Head coach: Art Shell.
Assistant coaches:
 Dave Adolph (defense/linebackers).
 Fred Biletnikoff (wide receivers).
 Gunther Cunningham (linebackers).
 Kim Helton (offensive line).
 Earl Leggett (defensive line).
 Odis McKinney (special projects).
 Steve Ortmyer (football operations/special teams).
 Terry Robiskie (tight ends).
 Joe Scannella (offensive backs).
 Jack Stanton (defensive backs).
 Tom Walsh (offense).
 Mike White (quarterbacks).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1990 regular-season record: 12-4 (1st in AFC West); 6-2 in division; 9-3 in conference; 6-2 at home; 6-2 on road.

1990 playoff record: Defeated Bengals, 20-10, in AFC divisional playoff game; lost to Bills, 51-3, in AFC championship game.

Shell's regular-season record: 19-9 in two seasons with Raiders.

Shell's postseason record: 1-1 in one playoff with Raiders.

Team record last five years: 40-39 (.506, ranks 16th in league in that span).

1990 team rankings:	AFC	NFL
Total offense.....	9	19
Rushing offense.....	5	9
Passing offense.....	12	23
Scoring offense.....	5	13
Total defense.....	2	4
Rushing defense.....	6	14
Passing defense.....	2	4
Scoring defense.....	5	7
Takeaways.....	T13	T27
Giveaways.....	T3	T4
Turnover differential.....	T6	T14
Sacks.....	2	2
Sacks allowed.....	5	T7

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

Stadium (capacity): Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum (92,488).

Ticket information: 213-322-5901.

Flagship radio station: KFI, 640 AM.

Training site: Oxnard, Calif.; 213-322-3451.

1991 SCHEDULE

Sept. 1—at Houston	3:00
Sept. 8—DENVER	1:00
Sept. 15—INDIANAPOLIS	1:00
Sept. 22—at Atlanta	1:00
Sept. 29—SAN FRANCISCO	1:00
Oct. 6—SAN DIEGO	1:00
Oct. 13—at Seattle	4:30
Oct. 20—L.A. RAMS	1:00
Oct. 28—at Kansas City (Mon.)	8:00
Nov. 3—Open date	
Nov. 10—at Denver	2:00
Nov. 17—SEATTLE	1:00
Nov. 24—at Cincinnati	1:00
Dec. 1—at San Diego	5:00
Dec. 8—BUFFALO	1:00
Dec. 16—at New Orleans (Mon.)	8:00
Dec. 22—KANSAS CITY	1:00

All times local. All games Sunday unless noted.

1990 RESULTS

Sept. 9—DENVER	14-9
Sept. 16—at Seattle	17-13
Sept. 23—PITTSBURGH	20-3
Sept. 30—CHICAGO	24-10
Oct. 7—at Buffalo	24-38
Oct. 14—SEATTLE	24-17
Oct. 21—at San Diego	24-9
Oct. 28—Open date	
Nov. 4—at Kansas City	7-9
Nov. 11—GREEN BAY	16-29
Nov. 19—at Miami	13-10
Nov. 25—KANSAS CITY	24-27
Dec. 2—at Denver	23-20
Dec. 10—at Detroit	38-31
Dec. 16—CINCINNATI	24-7
Dec. 22—at Minnesota	28-24
Dec. 30—SAN DIEGO	17-12

1990 LEADERS

Scoring (kicking): Jeff Jaeger, 85 pts. (40/42 PATs, 15/20 FGs).
Scoring (touchdowns): Marcus Allen, 78 pts. (12 rushing, 1 receiving).
Passing: Jay Schroeder, 2,849 yds. (334 att., 182 comp., 54.5%, 19 TDs, 9 int.).
Rushing: Bo Jackson, 698 yds. (125 att., 5.6 avg., 5 TDs).
Receptions: Mervyn Fernandez, 52 (839 yds., 16.1 avg., 5 TDs).
Interceptions: Eddie Anderson, 3 (49 yds., 0 TDs); Terry McDaniel, 3 (20 yds., 0 TDs); Mike Harden, 3 (19 yds., 0 TDs).
Tackles: Eddie Anderson, 99 (70 solo, 29 assisted).
Sacks: Greg Townsend, 12.5.
Punting: Jeff Gossett, 38.6 avg. (60 punts).
Punt returns: Tim Brown, 8.7 avg. (34 att., 295 yds., 0 TDs).
Kickoff returns: Jamie Holland, 20.5 avg. (32 att., 655 yds., 0 TDs).

1990 FANTASY STATISTICS

Statistics included for current members of 1991 roster only.

Name	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING				Defensive TDs	Total TDs
	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	18-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs		
Allen	-	-	-	-	11	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
G. Bell	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
T. Brown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Craig	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Fernandez	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Gault	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Graddy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Horton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Jackson	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Jaeger	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	6	1	40	-	-
McDaniel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1
Robinson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1
Schroeder	9	6	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
S. Smith	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Townsend	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1

* fumble recovery.

* interception.

LINEMEN—The strength of the Raiders in 1990 was up the middle, with center Mosebar and left guard Steve Wisniewski earning Pro Bowl spots and right guard Max Montoya just missing.

Left tackle Rory Graves had a solid year after a troubled 1989, and journeyman Steve Wright did so well as a replacement for the injured Bruce Wilkerson at right tackle that he held the job all season. Wilkerson will be eager to reclaim his old spot.

The Raiders said they would draft an offensive lineman only if a dominant one was on the board when their slot came up. Having found no such player available, they're sticking with a pat hand.

This unit allowed only 29 sacks last year, another reason for Schroeder's success.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—When Long suffered a toe fracture in the season's second week, things looked dismal for the Raiders, but the line never missed a beat. One of the major reasons was Townsend, who held out, got \$1 million in salary and then earned his first Pro Bowl berth on a 12½-sack season.

Long returned as a force at mid-season and wound up with six sacks. He and Townsend are entrenched at the end spots. Tackles Bob Golic and Scott Davis (10 sacks) also are major factors.

The Raiders used rookie Aaron Wallace, listed as a linebacker, as a pass-rush specialist and will welcome back end Anthony Smith, the club's No. 1 draft choice in 1990. Smith missed all of the '90 season after having knee surgery.

LINEBACKERS—This was the area of most concern a year ago, and the Raiders made one significant move to bolster the position by trading for Tampa Bay's Winston Moss. He'll contend for one of the outside spots in the 4-3 scheme, probably that of 34-year-old Jerry Robinson.

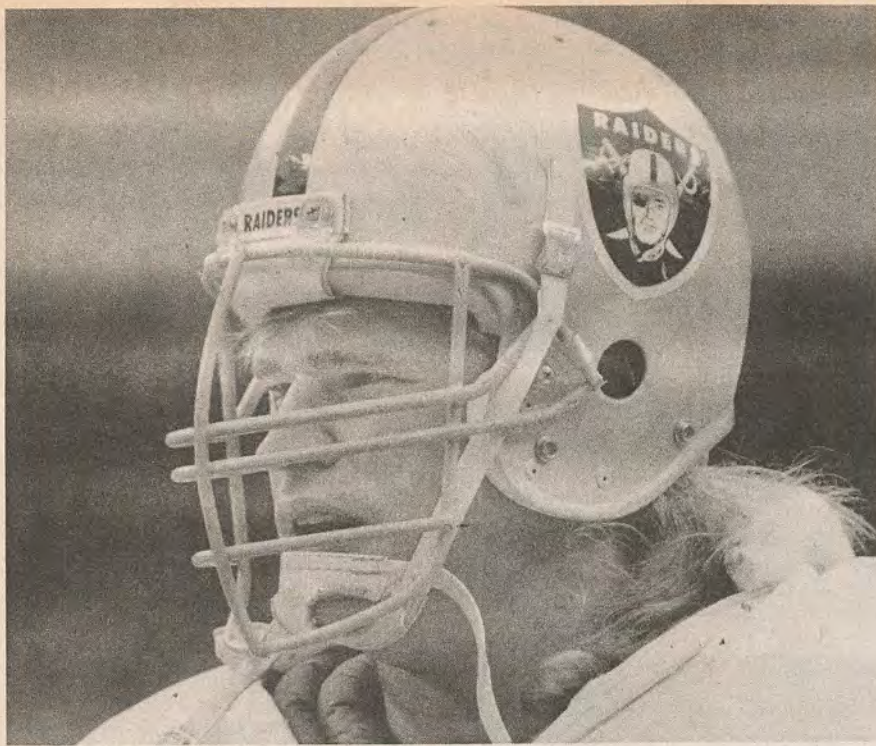
Middle linebacker Riki Ellison had an up-and-down season but stood out in the Raiders' playoff triumph over Cincinnati, making 11 tackles. Tom Benson holds down the other linebacking spot.

Los Angeles also signed Plan B free agent O'Brien Alston and drafted two long shots in the eighth round.

This figured to be the most scrutinized area of the defense in training camp.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—The 49ers told Lott that he probably had only one season left, so they didn't protect him in Plan B. Lott got the message and signed for two years with the Raiders, who immediately installed him at strong safety.

Lott, an eight-time Pro Bowler, also will call the defensive signals. He will team with hard-hitting free safety Eddie Anderson as the Raiders try to emulate the Denver Broncos' success with two knockout punchers in the middle of the secondary.



Forcing the issue: Scott Davis, who registered 10 sacks last year, is a major force on the Raiders' defensive line.

Cornerback is another strength, with starters Terry McDaniel and Lionel Washington heading to camp knowing that Garry Lewis and Torin Dorn are pushing for jobs. Lewis actually beat

out McDaniel in camp last year, then suffered a shoulder injury. When McDaniel got the job back, he played at a Pro Bowl level.

When teams go to three and four wide

receivers, the Raiders like to go immediately to a six-man secondary, which means everyone on hand will see considerable action again this year.

Dan Land, Elvis Patterson and Plan B signee Vencie Glenn will contend for the backup safety spots.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Two blocked punts were costly in losses at Buffalo and Kansas City. Factor in a blocked conversion kick, a blocked field-goal attempt and very ordinary return work, and this was not a special area for the Raiders in 1990.

Place-kicker Jeff Jaeger made 15 of 20 field-goal tries, but Jeff Gossett was next to last among AFC punters with a 38.6-yard average.

Ron Brown, an Olympic gold medalist and former member of the Los Angeles Rams, was supposed to inject life into the kickoff-return game, yet he averaged less than a touchback (19.2 yards) per runback. Plus, his longest return was only 34 yards. Jamie Holland had a better average (still only 20.5) and managed one big run of 87 yards.

Tim Brown finished among the AFC's top 10 in punt returns but didn't seem to be the dazzling breakaway threat he was before his 1989 knee surgery.

The Raiders also suffered from coverage breakdowns on occasion. Clearly, the special teams need upgrading.



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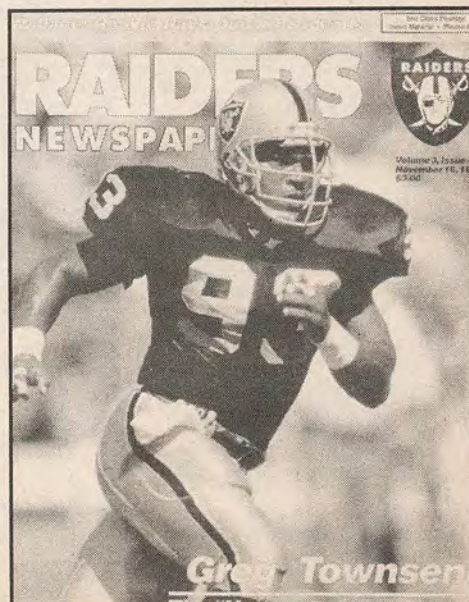
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Chargers hoping to find groove, avoid 6-10 rut

By T.J. SIMERS
Los Angeles Times

Burt Grossman is a funny guy who plays defensive end for the San Diego Chargers. Considering that the Chargers have compiled a 6-10 record in each of the last three National Football League seasons, Grossman might accurately be called a stand-up comedian working a funeral.

"You'll notice I get most of my attention during training camp and before the season begins," Grossman cracked. "Because after that we usually lose."

A death-march 1991 schedule, which includes five road tests in the first seven games, seemingly has positioned the Chargers for a "four-peat."

"Another 6-10 season and we'll all get fired," quarterback Billy Joe Tolliver said.

The last time the Chargers made the playoffs, Dan Fouts outdueled Terry Bradshaw, 31-28, in the strike-generated "Super Bowl tournament" that followed the 1982 season.

Three head coaches and four general managers later, the Chargers contend they are headed in the right direction with Bobby Beathard as the mover and shaker in the front office. They enter 1991 coming off a season in which their defense ranked fifth in the league, Marion Butts finished as the NFL's No. 3 rusher and wide receiver Anthony Miller emerged as one of the game's most exciting players.



No laughing matter: The team funny man off the field, Burt Grossman is dead serious on the field, as his 10 sacks last season would attest.

COACHING

If the Chargers continue to go south in the standings, the team's bye week (in early November) may take on bye-bye implications for Dan Henning.

Henning compiled a 22-41-1 record in four seasons with Atlanta before being released, and now he enters the third year of a five-year Chargers contract with a 12-20 mark.

Chargers Owner Alex Spanos, an impatient sort, has made it known that he doesn't think Tolliver should be the team's starting quarterback. Henning, however, will stick with Tolliver. Accordingly, as Tolliver goes, so goes Henning's future with the team.

The only change on the coaching staff is a big one. Defensive line coach Gunter Cunningham made the Chargers into a sacking powerhouse, but his contract was not renewed because he didn't get along with Grossman, Leslie O'Neal and Lee Williams. Chuck Clausen, an assistant under Henning in Atlanta, replaces Cunningham, who has moved on to the Los Angeles Raiders.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—As a starter, Tolliver has compiled an 8-11 record in his first two seasons in the league, but he has been about as welcome in San Diego as water restrictions.

Tolliver was booed off the field last year and replaced by rookie John Friesz in the season finale. Beathard drafted Friesz, and if he were calling the shots in the locker room, Friesz would line up as the No. 1 quarterback this season.

Tolliver has had his problems. He consistently overthrew his targets last year, was overweight and appeared overmatched against some of the league's top defensive units. But he has lost 15 pounds and worked on adding some touch to his intermediate passes. He will not go quietly onto the waiver wire.

"We better have some guys blocking," Tolliver said. "We better have some guys catching the football. If I'm going to get fired, I'm going to get fired with the best damn players I can get fired with."

Friesz reacted well in starting the final game of 1990, but Henning doesn't think he has the time to endure Friesz's growing pains. He's probably right.

In recent years, the Chargers have hired and fired such notable quarterback rejects as Mark Malone, Jim McMahon, Steve Fuller, David Archer and Babe Laufenberg. This year, they signed Plan B free agent Bob Gagliano.

RUNNING BACKS—Henning likes the one-back attack, but he possesses a talent overload in the backfield.

He has a smash-mouth runner in Butts, a slashing former tight end who

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: The Chargers hugged the ground in 1990 and got 265 carries from Marion Butts without a fumble. Leslie O'Neal ranked third in the AFC with 13½ sacks, and Burt Grossman ran his sack total to 18 in his last 23 games. Special-teams excellence allows the Chargers to play field-position football, and a fifth-ranked defense keeps San Diego in most games.

Weaknesses: Bring back Mark Malone. No one seems to like Billy Joe Tolliver except Coach Dan Henning, and Henning might be looking for work at season's end. Tolliver will be asked to improve, although the team still lacks a starting wide receiver to complement Anthony Miller and a starting left tackle who can block effectively.

Key to success: Avoiding a rocky start. San Diego opens at Pittsburgh and then goes to San Francisco. Three more road games in the following five weeks will test the Chargers' mettle. If the Chargers hang tough early, the homestretch could be played before something more than an empty stadium.

Sure signs of trouble: Owner Alex Spanos announcing that he has all the confidence in the world in Coach Dan Henning or rumors circulating that Bill Walsh (or anyone else) is headed to San Diego as Henning's replacement.

That's a fact: Since getting off to an 8-1 start in the 1987 season, San Diego has lost 36 of its last 54 games.

Coach Dan Henning says: "If we hadn't added anybody in the off-season, I would have expected us to be better just from within."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Miller	Taylor
TE	Cox	Young
LT	Goeas	Swayne
LG	Moten	Cornish
C	Hall	
RG	Richards	May Beauford
RT	Thompson	Swayne
H-B	Walker	McEwen
WR	Lewis	Thigpen
QB	Tolliver	Gagliano Friesz
RB	Butts	Bernstine Harmon

DEFENSE

LE	Williams	
NT	Phillips	Thornton Savage
RE	Grossman	Hinkle
LOLB	Smith	Rolling
LILB	Plummer	Thaxton
RILB	Seau	Hendrickson
ROLB	O'Neal	
LCB	Byrd	Elder Humphery
RCB	Seale	Frank
SS	Bayless	Fields
FS	Richard	Shelton

SPECIALISTS

K	Carney	
P	Kidd	
KR	Elder	Humphery
PR	Taylor	Thigpen Lewis

plays running back in Rod Bernstine, a third-down terror in Ronnie Harmon and a bigger and quicker Lionel James in rookie Eric Bieniemy.

Butts was on course to become the league's leading rusher last season before missing the final two games because of a foot injury. His job was to wear down the defense and set it up for Bernstine's bursts. Rushing for 1,225 yards, Butts accomplished his mission—and then some.

Harmon became the team's third-down specialist and one of its most productive and dependable performers.

Bieniemy has more speed and moves than either Butts or Bernstine, but he doesn't always take the football with him. Given the problems at quarterback, the Chargers can't afford to lose the ball via the fumble. Butts, Bernstine and Harmon ran the ball a combined 455 times last season and fumbled exactly twice.

RECEIVERS—Miller caught 63 passes and the other four wide receivers on the roster combined for 39 receptions. And Miller was the player who was drawing double coverage.

When Butts is running well, he takes a lot of heat off Miller, but finding another threat opposite Miller has become a Beathard priority. Nate Lewis, a Beathard sleeper-special from Oregon Tech, came on to catch 14 passes last season as a seventh-round draft choice and has the edge to start. Walter Wilson, a third-round draft pick in 1990, talks a better game than he plays.

Derrick Walker, who caught 23 passes last season, is the No. 1 man at H-back, while massive Arthur Cox heads the tight end corps. A 277-pounder, Cox caught 14 passes last season.

Yancey Thigpen, a fourth-round selection out of Winston-Salem (N.C.) State, figures to be in the hunt for a pass-catching job and likely will see punt-return service.

LINEMEN—In what has become a yearly ritual, the shuffle along the offensive line continues.

Last year's starting center, Frank Cornish, is now a reserve guard. Courtney Hall, the No. 1 center in 1989 and the starting left guard in 1990, supplants Cornish. Leo Goeas, who once was projected to start at left guard, now figures to be the regular at left tackle.

Rookie Eric Moten, a second-round selection last April out of Michigan State, probably will take over at left guard. And David Richards stays at right guard—for now—but Plan B free agent Mark May will be breathing down his neck.

Broderick Thompson lines up at right tackle, with Plan B free agent Harry Swayne working as a backup.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—Joe Phillips, who suffered a fractured eye orbit in a beating out-

1991 SAN DIEGO CHARGERS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL Exp.	College	How acq.	'90 Games GP/GS
Friesz, John	6-4/209	5-19-67	1	Idaho	D6/90	1/1
Gagliano, Bob	6-3/196	9-5-58	4	Utah State	PlanB/91	*9/4
Tolliver, Billy Joe	6-1/218	2-7-66	3	Texas Tech	D2a/89	15/14
RUNNING BACKS						
Bernstine, Rod	6-3/238	2-8-65	5	Texas A&M	D1/87	12/1
Bieniemy, Eric	5-7/204	8-15-69	R	Colorado	D2a/91	—
Butts, Marion	6-1/248	8-1-66	3	Florida State	D7/89	14/13
Harmon, Ronnie	5-11/200	5-7-64	6	Iowa	PlanB/90	16/2
Samuels, Chris	5-10/202	5-16-69	R	Texas	D12/91	—
RECEIVERS						
Caravello, Joe (H-B)	6-3/262	6-6-63	5	Tulane	PlanB/89	7/7
Cox, Arthur (TE)	6-2/277	2-5-61	9	Texas Southern	FA/88	16/14
Heard, Ron	5-10/180	8-20-67	2	Bowling Green State	FA/90	0/0
Jones, Dave	6-4/230	11-9-68	R	Delaware State	D7/91	—
Kyles, Troy	6-1/188	8-13-68	2	Howard	PlanB/91	*9/0
Lewis, Nate	5-11/189	10-19-66	2	Oregon Tech	D7b/90	12/3
McDonald, Keith	5-9/170	11-7-63	3	San Jose State	FA/91	0/0
McEwen, Craig (H-B)	6-1/220	12-16-65	5	Utah	FA/89	16/4
Miller, Anthony	5-11/185	4-15-65	4	Tennessee	D1/88	16/16
Orr, Terry (H-B)	6-2/235	9-27-61	6	Texas	FA/90	*11/0
Poles, Roland (H-B)	6-0/251	9-9-66	R	Tennessee	D10/91	—
Taylor, Kitrick	5-11/191	7-22-64	4	Washington State	FA/90	3/0
Thigpen, Yancey	6-5/208	8-15-69	R	Winston-Salem (N.C.) St.	D4/91	—
Walker, Derrick (H-B)	6-1/244	6-23-67	2	Michigan	D6c/90	16/12
Weinberg, Joe	6-1/185	10-17-67	R	Johnson C. Smith (N.C.)	D11/91	—
Wilson, Walter	5-10/185	10-6-66	2	East Carolina	D3b/90	14/5
Young, Duane (TE)	6-1/276	5-29-68	R	Michigan State	D5/91	—
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Beauford, Terry (G)	6-2/281	3-27-68	R	Florida A&M	D7a/91	—
Brown, Dean	6-3/311	9-7-68	1	Notre Dame	FA/90	0/0
Cornish, Frank (C)	6-4/295	9-24-67	2	UCLA	D6a/90	16/16
Floyd, Eric (G)	6-5/300	10-28-65	2	Auburn	FA/90	16/6
Goeas, Leo (G/T)	6-4/285	8-15-66	2	Hawaii	D3a/90	15/10
Hall, Courtney (C/G)	6-2/269	8-26-68	3	Rice	D2/89	16/16
Heldt, Mike (C)	6-3/270	1-2-70	R	Notre Dame	D10a/91	—
Laister, Jimmy (T)	6-4/300	4-12-69	R	Oregon Tech	D6/91	—
May, Mark (G/T)	6-6/290	11-2-59	10	Pittsburgh	PlanB/91	0/0
Moten, Eric (G)	6-2/292	4-11-68	R	Michigan State	D2b/91	—
Richards, David (G/T)	6-5/310	4-11-66	4	UCLA	D4b/88	16/16
Rodenhauser, Mark (C)	6-5/263	6-1-61	4	Illinois State	PlanB/90	16/0
Simmonds, Mike (G)	6-4/295	8-12-64	2	Indiana State	PlanB/90	IR
Sutway, Harry (T)	6-5/290	2-2-65	5	Rutgers	PlanB/91	*10/0
Thompson, Broderick (G/T)	6-5/295	8-14-60	7	Kansas	FA/87	16/16
Withycombe, Mike (T)	6-5/305	11-18-64	4	Fresno State	FA/91	0/0
Zandofsky, Mike (G)	6-2/285	11-30-65	3	Washington	T-Pho/90	13/0
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Benson, Mitchell (T)	6-4/300	5-30-67	3	Texas Christian	FA/91	*9/0
Grossman, Burt (E)	6-4/255	4-10-67	3	Pittsburgh	D1/89	15/15
Hinkle, George (E)	6-5/269	3-17-65	4	Arizona	D11a/88	16/3
Phillips, Joe (NT)	6-5/315	7-15-63	6	Southern Methodist	FA/87	3/3
Savage, Tony (NT)	6-3/300	7-7-67	1	Washington State	FA/90	2/0
Thornton, George (T)	6-3/300	4-28-68	R	Alabama	D2/91	—
Williams, Lee (E)	6-6/271	10-15-62	8	Bethune-Cookman	SupD1/84	16/16
LINEBACKERS						
Hendrickson, Steve (HB)	6-0/250	8-30-66	3	California	FA/90	14/0
Katoa, Andy	6-2/238	8-18-65	R	Southern Oregon State	D9/91	—
O'Neal, Leslie	6-4/259	5-7-64	5	Oklahoma State	D1/86	16/16
Plummer, Gary	6-2/240	1-26-60	6	California	FA/86	16/15
Rolling, Henry	6-2/225	9-8-65	4	Nevada	FA/90	16/8
Seau, Junior	6-3/243	1-19-69	2	Southern California	D1/90	16/15
Smith, Billy Ray	6-3/236	8-10-61	9	Arkansas	D1/83	11/10
Thaxton, Galand	6-1/240	10-23-64	2	Wyoming	PlanB/91	IR
DEFENSIVE BACKS						
Bayless, Martin (S)	6-2/212	10-11-62	8	Bowling Green State	T-Buf/87	14/14
Byrd, Gill (CB)	5-11/198	2-20-61	9	San Jose State	D1b/83	16/16
Carrington, Darren (CB)	5-1/189	10-10-66	3	Northern Arizona	PlanB/91	*12/0
Elder, Donnie (CB)	5-9/178	12-13-63	6	Memphis State	FA/90	12/0
Fields, Floyd	6-2/205	1-7-69	R	Arizona State	D5a/91	—
Frank, Donald (CB)	6-0/200	10-24-65	2	Winston-Salem (N.C.) St.	FA/90	16/2
Humphrey, Bobby	5-11/180	8-23-61	9	New Mexico State	PlanB/91	*16/10
Kelson, Derrick	6-0/187	5-14-68	1	Purdue	FA/90	0/0
Radachowsky, George (S)	6-0/195	9-7-62	7	Boston College	FA/91	0/0
Richard, Stanley (CB)	6-2/197	10-21-67	R	Texas	D1/91	—
Seale, Sam (CB)	5-9/185	10-6-62	8	Western State (Colo.)	FA/88	16/13
Shelton, Anthony (CB)	6-1/195	9-4-67	2	Tennessee State	W-SF/90	14/0
SPECIALISTS						
Karney, John (K)	5-11/170	4-20-64	3	Notre Dame	PlanB/90	+13/0
Kidd, John (P)	6-3/208	8-22-61	8	Northwestern	PlanB/90	16/0
Rodriguez, Ruben (P)	6-2/217	3-3-65	4	Arizona	FA/91	0/0
OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP						
LeAndre Anderson, DE; Joaquin Barnett, LB; Geoff Cook, TE; Mike Davis, LB; Tyrone Davis, RB; Curtis Delgado, RB; Wayne Dickson, LB; Alema Fitsemanu, LB; Darryl Jenkins, T; Rich Kaufusi, DE; Craig Lashley, DE; Kris McCall, CB; Kim McCloud, CB; Dan Murphy, CB; DeWayne Odum, LB; Stephon Weatherspoon, LB; Tom Whelihan, K; John Wyche, S.						

*Not with Chargers in 1990.

†Includes totals with both Chargers and another NFL team in 1990.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

Continued

COACHES

Head coach: Dan Henning.
Assistant coaches:
 Chuck Clausen (defensive line).
 Alex Gibbs (offensive line).
 Mike Haluchak (linebackers).
 Bobby Jackson (offensive backs).
 Charlie Joiner (receivers).
 Ron Lynn (defensive coordinator).
 LeCharles McDaniel (special-teams assistant).
 Jim Mora (secondary).
 Larry Pasquale (special-teams coordinator).
 Jack Reilly (offensive assistant).
 Ted Tollner (assistant head coach/quarterbacks).
 Ed White (tight ends).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1990 regular-season record: 6-10 (4th in AFC West); 2-6 in division; 5-9 in conference; 3-5 at home; 3-5 on road.

1990 playoff record: None.

Henning's regular-season record: 12-20 in two seasons with Chargers; 34-61-1 overall in six NFL seasons with Chargers and Falcons.

Henning's postseason record: None.

Team record last five years: 30-49 (.380, ranks 22nd in league in that span).

1990 team rankings:	AFC	NFL
Total offense	7	15
Rushing offense	1	3
Passing offense	13	24
Scoring offense	8	17
Total defense	3	5
Rushing defense	1	5
Passing defense	5	9
Scoring defense	6	10
Takeaways	T7	T16
Giveaways	T7	T13
Turnover differential	T7	T14
Sacks	T3	T5
Sacks allowed	2	T2

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

Stadium (capacity): San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium (60,861).

Ticket information: 619-280-2121; 619-563-8281.

Flagship radio station: XTRA, 690 AM.

Training site: UC San Diego, San Diego, Calif.; 619-280-2111.

1991 SCHEDULE

Sept. 1	—at Pittsburgh	4:00
Sept. 8	—at San Francisco	1:00
Sept. 15	—ATLANTA	1:00
Sept. 22	—at Denver	2:00
Sept. 29	—KANSAS CITY	1:00
Oct. 6	—at L.A. Raiders	1:00
Oct. 13	—at L.A. Rams	1:00
Oct. 20	—CLEVELAND	1:00
Oct. 27	—at Seattle	1:00
Nov. 3	—Open date	
Nov. 10	—SEATTLE	1:00
Nov. 17	—NEW ORLEANS	1:00
Nov. 24	—at N.Y. Jets	4:00
Dec. 1	—L.A. RAIDERS	5:00
Dec. 8	—at Kansas City	12:00
Dec. 15	—MIAMI	1:00
Dec. 22	—DENVER	1:00

All times local. All games Sunday.

1990 RESULTS

Sept. 9	—at Dallas	14-17
Sept. 16	—CINCINNATI	16-21
Sept. 23	—at Cleveland	24-14
Sept. 30	—HOUSTON	7-17
Oct. 7	—at Pittsburgh	14-36
Oct. 14	—at N.Y. Jets	39-3
Oct. 21	—L.A. RAIDERS	9-24
Oct. 28	—TAMPA BAY	41-10
Nov. 4	—at Seattle	31-14
Nov. 11	—DENVER	19-7
Nov. 18	—at Kansas City	10-27
Nov. 25	—SEATTLE (OT)	10-13
Dec. 2	—N.Y. JETS	38-17
Dec. 9	—Open date	
Dec. 16	—at Denver	10-20
Dec. 23	—KANSAS CITY	21-24
Dec. 30	—at L.A. Raiders	12-17

1990 LEADERS

Scoring (kicking): John Carney, 84 pts. (27/28 PATs, 19/21 FGs).

Scoring (touchdowns): Marion Butts, 48 pts. (8 rushing).

Passing: Billy Joe Tolliver, 2,574 yds. (410 att., 216 comp., 52.7%, 16 TDs, 16 int.).

Rushing: Marion Butts, 1,225 yds. (265 att., 4.6 avg., 8 TDs).

Receptions: Anthony Miller, 63 (933 yds., 14.8 avg., 7 TDs).

Interceptions: Gill Byrd, 7 (63 yds., 0 TDs).

Tackles: Gary Plummer, 111 (86 solo, 25 assisted).

Sacks: Leslie O'Neal, 13.5 (112 yds.).

Punting: John Kidd, 40.0 avg. (61 punts, 1 blocked).

Punt returns: Nate Lewis, 9.0 avg. (13 att., 117 yds., 1 TD).

Kickoff returns: Donnie Elder, 23.8 avg. (24 att., 571 yds., 0 TDs).

1990 FANTASY STATISTICS

Statistics included for current members of 1991 roster only.

Name	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING				Defensive TDs	Total TDs
	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	16-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs		
Bernstine	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Butts	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Caravello	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Carney	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	3	—	27	—	—
Cox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Friesz	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Gagliano	1	7	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Harmon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Humphery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1*	1
Lewis	—	—	—	—	—	1	1°	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
McEwen	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Miller	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	7
Plummer	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Taylor	—	—	—	—	—	—	1°	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Tolliver	4	11	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16
Walker	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

* fumble recovery.

* interception.

° punt return.

side a restaurant last year, has returned to anchor the middle at nose tackle. He will be flanked by Grossman (who is deadly serious on the field, as his 10 sacks last season would attest) and Williams.

O'Neal, while listed as a linebacker, really operates as another defensive end and puts heavy pressure on the passer. He crashed his way to 13½ sacks last year. George Thornton, the Chargers' second pick in the 1991 draft, will draw time inside to fortify San Diego's defense against the rush.

LINEBACKERS—Lost in the debris of five losses in the Chargers' last six games was the progress of 1990 first-round pick Junior Seau. Seau, while ideally suited to playing outside linebacker, will remain in the middle next to sure-tackling Gary Plummer.

Seau's blitzing speed, however, gives defensive coordinator Ron Lynn the chance to devise confusing schemes featuring O'Neal, Seau, Williams and Grossman.

Billy Ray Smith will share time at outside linebacker with Henry Rolling, one of the surprise finds of 1990. Smith may be slowing down, but he remains the brains behind the operation. Galand Thaxton, a Plan B free agent, will be an all-purpose backup.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—As soon as the players had cleaned out their lockers last season, the team announced that starting safety Vencie Glenn would not be invited back. Glenn supposedly didn't make enough big plays, but there also was concern about his off-the-field activities and reluctance to stay in shape.

Stanley Richard, the Chargers' first pick in the '91 draft, will battle Anthony Shelton for the starting free-safety job. Richard, from Texas, is expected to prevail. Martin Bayless returns at strong safety, but fifth-round pick Floyd Fields will be pressing hard to replace him. Bayless is considered a liability in passing situations.

Gill Byrd, the most overlooked cornerback in the league, has done nothing but get better with each passing season. He has 21 interceptions in the last three years and still hasn't earned a Pro Bowl invitation. Sam Seale, who has covered 40 yards in faster time than Miller, has turned in back-to-back solid performances at the other corner.

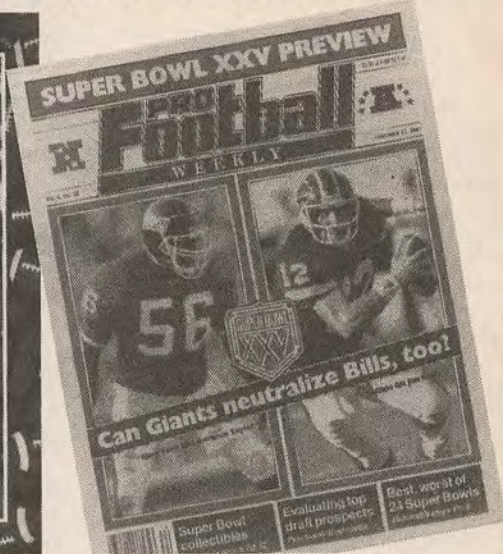
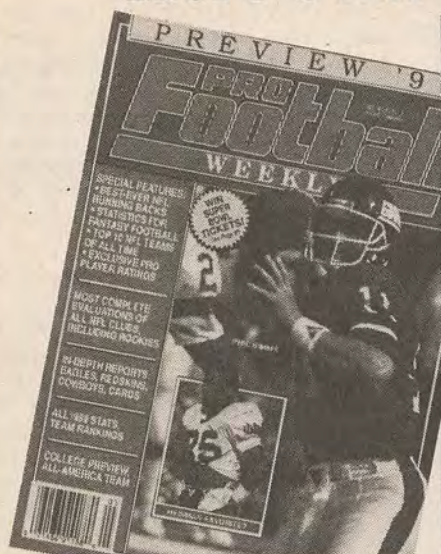
Plan B free agent Bobby Humphery has the experience to find work as a nickel back.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Chargers led the NFL in team kickoff-return average last season with a figure of 21.6 and got excellent punt runbacks from Lewis and Kitrick Taylor. They also received spectacular place-kicking from John Carney, who made 19 of 21 field-goal attempts, and steady punting from John Kidd.



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'Plot' in Seahawks' story line focuses on Knox

By JOHN CLAYTON
Tacoma News Tribune

Several blasts from the past helped turn the Seattle Seahawks into one of the most exciting teams in the National Football League last season.

Jacob Green, Seattle's 34-year-old defensive end, registered his best sack total (12½) since 1985. Strong safety Nesby Glasgow, also 34 heading into the 1991 season, led the defense spiritually and physically (83 tackles). In fact, employing a "thirtysomething" unit, the Seahawks returned to the top 10 of the NFL's overall defensive statistics after many years at or near the bottom.

But Seattle's most impressive performance was by Chuck Knox, the seventh-winningest coach in NFL history with 164 victories. When hope disappeared after a 0-3 start, Knox rallied the troops to a 9-4 finish, mostly on last-minute victories. When injuries depleted the linebacking corps, Knox adjusted and motivated. Last year's goings-on paralleled one of the coach's favorite Knoxisms: "The faint heart never won the fair lady."

This fall, another Knoxism persists. It's called contract troubles. Last May, after four unproductive months of talks with Seahawks Owner Ken Behring, Knox, who was entering the final year of his contract, was offered a two-year extension—without a raise. Furthermore, Behring wanted a clause that



Good things on the horizon: Defensive tackle Cortez Kennedy gave evidence that he soon could be an impact player.

would give him 30 days after each season in which to dismiss Knox. Knox accepted, but he added a 30-day escape clause.

Could this be Knox's last season with the Seahawks? That's the major story line in Seattle.

COACHING

Knox faces quite a challenge in 1991, with seven of the Seahawks' first 11 games on the road.

In times like this, Knox excels. He's

the motivator, and his longtime staff is made up of great teachers.

Defensive coordinator Tom Catlin converted the Seahawks to a 4-3 scheme last season that worked when injuries sidelined most of the linebackers. Offensive coordinator John Becker, benefiting from a fling with the run-and-shoot last year, convinced Knox to use more three- and four-receiver sets on first and second downs.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—The Seahawks seem addicted to Dave Krieg. Knox has been trying to replace him for eight years but can't. The franchise wasted one first- and three fifth-round draft choices on Kelly Stouffer and Jeff Kemp with the idea that one of them would supplant Krieg. Yet Krieg took every snap last year despite having one of his worst seasons statistically.

Offensively, the Seahawks ranked 21st in the league in 1990. Krieg passed for 3,194 yards, his fourth 3,000-yard season. That's the good news. The bad news is that he threw more interceptions (20) than touchdown passes (15), a career first. He also fumbled 16 times, including four that were returned for touchdowns.

So how does Krieg keep his job? One word sums it up: Leadership. He has a knack for making the right play at the right time and also is known for his hot streaks. He led the team to four fourth-quarter or overtime victories last season, increasing his career total to 17.

Once again, the Seahawks have made a move to replace him. Dan McGwire, all 6-foot-8 of him, was drafted in the first round out of San Diego State. But he probably poses more of a threat to backups Stouffer and Kemp. McGwire will need at least a year of transition from college—although Behring wants him to play some this fall.

RUNNING BACKS—"Ground Chuck" is back, but the price of beef has escalated. John L. Williams, the league's highest-paid fullback at \$900,000, wanted to renegotiate his contract because of personal money problems. Halfback Derrick Fenner, who scored 15 touchdowns on a \$75,000 salary, asked for a tenfold increase in his pay. Management balked in both cases, leaving the running back situation unsettled early in the summer.

Williams, an exceptional blocker and pass catcher, has led Seattle in total yards from scrimmage in each of the last four seasons. If Williams' head isn't into playing this year, James Jones figures to see considerable action.

After Curt Warner's departure following the 1989 season, the Seahawks prayed for a back to step forward. The 228-pound Fenner, a 10th-round gamble in the '89 NFL draft, did just that. He

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: For a change, the defense. It ranked ninth overall in the NFL last season after being extremely porous in recent years.

Weaknesses: The Seahawks lack depth on the offensive line and at linebacker. Tight end is the biggest question mark on the team.

Key to success: If the Seahawks can survive their first 11 games—seven on the road—with a 6-5 record, they could make a run at the AFC West title. The Seahawks have four of their final five games at the Kingdome.

Sure sign of trouble: If the Seahawks drop two games below .500 by the November 3 bye week. In that situation, concerns would surface about Chuck Knox's future as coach and whether Dave Krieg should be at quarterback instead of first-round draft choice Dan McGwire (whom Owner Ken Behring helped to select).

That's a fact: Six of last year's games were decided on the last play, including four in a row. Two others were decided inside three minutes. In those six games, the Seahawks compiled a 4-2 record.

Coach Chuck Knox says: "We've got a fine nucleus of young players and veteran players. I think we're heading in the right direction."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Blades	Chadwick	Daniels
LT	Heck	Dyko	Singer
LG	Bailey	Wheat	
C	Feasel	Tofflemire	
RG	Millard	Wheat	Sims
RT	Lee	Hitchcock	Harris
TE	Tice	McNeal	Heller
WR	Kane	Thomas	
QB	Krieg	Kemp	McGwire
HB	Fenner	Warren	Loville
FB	Williams	Jones	McLemore

DEFENSE

LE	Green	Sinclair	
LT	Nash	Hayes	
RT	Kennedy	Garrett	
RE	Bryant	Woods	
LOLB	Wooden	Cain	
MLB	Wyman	Comeaux	
ROLB	Porter	Cotton	Newbill
CB	Harper	Davis	
CB	Hunter	Jefferson	
SS	Glasgow	Blackmon	
FS	Robinson	McElroy	Thompson

SPECIALISTS

K	Kasay		
P	Donnelly		
KR	Warren	Loville	
PR	Warren	Thomas	

Continued

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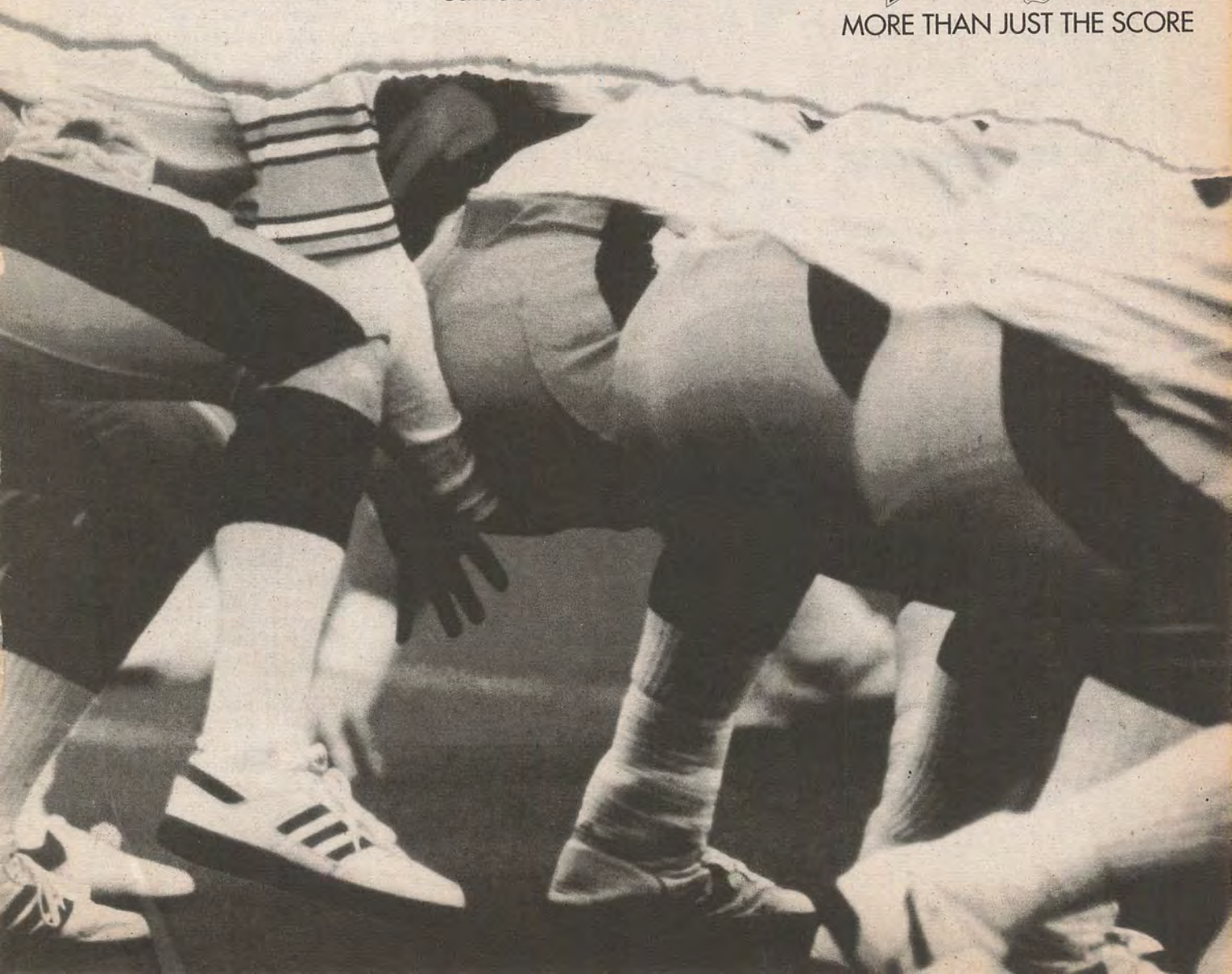
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MORE THAN JUST THE SCORE



COACHES

Head coach: Chuck Knox.
Assistant coaches:
 John Becker (offensive coordinator/receivers).
 Tom Catlin (assistant head coach/defensive coordinator/linebackers).
 George Dyer (defensive line).
 Chick Harris (offensive backs).
 Ken Meyer (quarterbacks).
 Paul Moyer (staff assistant).
 Rod Perry (defensive backs).
 Russ Purnell (tight ends/assistant special teams).
 Frank Raines (strength and conditioning).
 Kent Stephenson (offensive line).
 Rusty Tillman (special teams/assistant linebackers).
 Joe Vitt (special assignments).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1990 regular-season record: 9-7 (3rd in AFC West); 4-4 in division; 7-5 in conference; 5-3 at home; 4-4 on road.

1990 playoff record: None.

Knox's regular-season record: 73-54 in eight seasons with Seahawks; 164-105-1 overall in 18 NFL seasons with Seahawks, Bills and Rams.

Knox's postseason record: 3-4 in four playoffs with Seahawks; 7-11 overall in 11 playoffs with Seahawks, Bills and Rams.

Team record last five years: 44-35 (.557, ranks T9th in league in that span).

1990 team rankings:	AFC	NFL
Total offense.....	10	21
Rushing offense.....	9	17
Passing offense.....	9	18
Scoring offense.....	9	18
Total defense.....	6	9
Rushing defense.....	3	10
Passing defense.....	6	11
Scoring defense.....	7	11
Takeaways.....	T7	T16
Giveaways.....	T11	T19
Turnover differential.....	11	23
Sacks.....	T10	20
Sacks allowed.....	T9	T14

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

Stadium (capacity): Kingdome (64,984).

Ticket information: 206-827-9766.

Flagship radio station: KIRO, 710 AM.

Training site: Seahawks Complex, Kirkland, Wash.; 206-827-9777.

1991 SCHEDULE

Sept. 1—at New Orleans	12:00
Sept. 8—N.Y. JETS	1:00
Sept. 15—at Denver	2:00
Sept. 22—at Kansas City	3:00
Sept. 29—INDIANAPOLIS	1:00
Oct. 6—at Cincinnati	1:00
Oct. 13—L.A. RAIDERS	4:30
Oct. 20—at Pittsburgh	1:00
Oct. 27—SAN DIEGO	1:00
Nov. 3—Open date	
Nov. 10—at San Diego	1:00
Nov. 17—at L.A. Raiders	1:00
Nov. 24—DENVER	1:00
Dec. 1—KANSAS CITY	1:00
Dec. 8—SAN FRANCISCO	1:00
Dec. 15—at Atlanta	1:00
Dec. 22—L.A. RAMS	5:00

All times local.

All games Sunday.

1990 RESULTS

Sept. 9—at Chicago	0-17
Sept. 16—L.A. RAIDERS	13-17
Sept. 23—at Denver (OT)	31-34
Oct. 1—CINCINNATI	31-16
Oct. 7—at New England	33-20
Oct. 14—at L.A. Raiders	17-24
Oct. 21—KANSAS CITY	19-7
Oct. 28—Open date	
Nov. 4—SAN DIEGO	14-31
Nov. 11—at Kansas City	17-16
Nov. 18—MINNESOTA	21-24
Nov. 25—at San Diego (OT)	13-10
Dec. 2—HOUSTON (OT)	13-10
Dec. 9—at Green Bay	20-14
Dec. 16—at Miami	17-24
Dec. 23—DENVER	17-12
Dec. 30—DETROIT	30-10

1990 LEADERS

Scoring (kicking): Norm Johnson, 102 pts. (33/34 PATs, 23/32 FGs).

Scoring (touchdowns): Derrick Fenner, 90 pts. (14 rushing, 1 receiving).

Passing: Dave Krieg, 3,194 yds. (448 att., 265 comp., 59.2%, 15 TDs, 20 int.).

Rushing: Derrick Fenner, 859 yds. (215 att., 4.0 avg., 14 TDs).

Receptions: John L. Williams, 73 (699 yds., 9.6 avg., 0 TDs).

Interceptions: Eugene Robinson, 3 (89 yds., 0 TDs); Dwayne Harper, 3 (69 yds., 0 TDs).

Tackles: Nesby Glasgow, 83.

Sacks: Jacob Green, 12.5 (71 yds.).

Punting: Rick Donnelly, 40.6 avg. (67 punts, 2,722 yds., 0 blocked).

Punt returns: Chris Warren, 9.6 avg. (28 att., 269 yds., 0 TDs).

Kickoff returns: Chris Warren, 20.8 avg. (23 att., 478 yds., 0 TDs).

1990 FANTASY STATISTICS

Statistics included for current members of 1991 roster only.

Name	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING				Defensive TDs	Total TDs
	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	18-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs		
Blades	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Chadwick	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Fenner	-	-	-	-	13	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
Heller	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Johnson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	5	1	33	-	-
Kane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	4
Krieg	7	5	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
Robinson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1
Skansi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Warren	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Williams	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3

* fumble recovery.

rushed for a team-high 859 yards last year and rushed for 14 TDs.

A young halfback waiting for a chance is Chris Warren. Like Fenner, Warren has power. Unlike Fenner, he has speed (4.38 seconds over 40 yards at mini-camp). Also on hand is Derek Lofville, who rejected a \$200,000-a-year contract offer from Green Bay through Plan B and opted to stay with Seattle.

RECEIVERS—The Seahawks are badly in need of speed at the flanks. Accordingly, they spent their second- and third-round draft picks last spring on Clemson's Doug Thomas and Penn State's David Daniels. Both are raw but possess great speed and potential.

Wide receivers Tommy Kane and Brian Blades, who combined for 101 receptions last year, are excellent possession catchers, but Knox is growing impatient with his tight end, Travis McNeal, who hasn't lived up to his potential as a blocker or as a receiver. Seattle signed Ron Heller a year ago through Plan B, but the Seahawks had to bring veteran Mike Tice out of retirement to do the blocking. The search for a new tight end continues.

LINEMEN—With four starters in their 30s, you'd think the offensive line would be in transition. But instead of getting younger, the line is getting older. The newest addition as a starter last year was right tackle Ronnie Lee, who will turn 35 just after the completion of the 1991 regular season.

Being old was in vogue last year as the forward wall helped Seattle ball-carriers to improve greatly over their 1989 production. In '89, the Seahawks averaged 87 yards rushing per game and netted five touchdowns on the ground. Last season, Seattle picked up 109.3 yards rushing per contest and scored 18 times via running.

Left tackle Andy Heck ranks as one of the best pass blockers in the American Football Conference, and right guard Bryan Millard played up to his capabilities last year.

The Seahawks hope that left guard Edwin Bailey, 32, has enough spring in his knees to survive another season. They think that Joe Tofflemire has the skill to replace center Grant Feasel, but the gutsy Feasel is tough to unseat.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—Green, Jeff Bryant and Joe Nash call themselves the "Die Hards." Why? Because they start every time. Well, virtually every time; these senior citizens missed only two starts combined last season.

Still, the Seahawks are developing some young talent up front. Cortez Kennedy, their 293-pound No. 1 draft choice in 1990, figures to start at right tackle. Kennedy wasn't an impact player last year, but he gave evidence that he soon could be when he made 10 tackles in a late-season game against Miami.

Tony Woods proved to be a budding star at right end, but he will be a question mark early in '91 because of a

major knee injury he suffered in the '90 season finale. Bryant will hold down Woods' spot until he's healthy.

The Seahawks found a steal in the fifth round of the 1990 draft in Eric Hayes, but he could eat himself out of the league. He reported to May mini-camp weighing 336 pounds.

LINEBACKERS—The Seahawks have plenty of young guns, but most of them misfired last year.

Terry Wooden, a promising young left outside linebacker, needed major knee reconstruction. Rufus Porter, the right outside linebacker, tore a groin muscle so badly that he struggled to run at May's mini-camp.

The only sure thing is middle linebacker Dave Wyman, and he missed the first eight weeks of last season because of knee problems.

Adversity might have turned this into a position of strength if all of the principals come back healthy. With Wooden and Porter, the Seahawks have great speed and pursuit. Wyman, at 250 pounds, is solid. And Seattle has fortified its linebacking corps with the signing of Marcus Cotton, a Plan B free agent who offers pass-rushing help and 4.64 speed.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—The Seahawks would like to use man-to-man coverages, but they lacked the speed to do so last year. This year, they'll be faster; whether they will be better is another question.

Patrick Hunter, their best coverage cornerback, ran a 4.38 at mini-camp. James Jefferson, a backup challenging for a starting job, is a former college sprinter. So is Brian Davis, the one-time Washington Redskin acquired on waivers in the middle of last season.

If that weren't enough, the Seahawks drafted Harlan Davis, a cornerback from Tennessee who is a world-class 200-meter runner.

Knox feels good about the potential of two young safeties, Robert Blackmon and Kevin Thompson. However, tendinitis in the knees prevented the hard-hitting Blackmon from keeping his starting job. Until the "comers" are ready, Knox will patch here and there with veterans—Glasgow, Vann McElroy and Eugene Robinson (whose three interceptions tied cornerback Dwayne Harper for the team lead).

SPECIAL TEAMS

Despite back problems, Plan B acquisition Rick Donnelly was the best punter in franchise history last year.

Place-kicker Norm Johnson, who missed several key field goals last season, will be challenged by fourth-round draftee John Kasay, a Georgia left-footer with a quicker and, perhaps, more accurate leg.

The Seahawks feel reasonably good about their return specialists (led by Warren) and their coverage teams (led by Jones).



1991 SEATTLE SEAHAWKS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	HL./WT.	Born	NFL Exp.	College	How acq.	'90 Games GP/GS
Kemp, Jeff	6-0/201	7-11-59	11	Dartmouth	T-SF/87	15/0
Krieg, Dave	6-1/192	10-20-58	12	Milton (Wis.)	FA/80	16/16
McGwire, Dan	6-8/243	12-18-67	R	San Diego State	D1/91	—
Stouffer, Kelly	6-3/207	7-6-64	4	Colorado State	T-Pho/88	0/0
RUNNING BACKS						
Fenner, Derrick	6-3/228	4-6-67	3	North Carolina	D10/89	16/15
Jones, James (FB)	6-2/232	3-21-61	9	Florida	T-Det/89	16/0
Loville, Derek	5-9/196	7-4-68	2	Oregon	FA/90	11/1
McLemore, Chris (FB)	6-1/230	12-31-63	3	Arizona	FA/91	0/0
Stewart, Tony	6-0/201	1-30-68	R	Iowa	D11/91	—
Warren, Chris	6-2/225	1-24-67	2	Ferrum (Va.)	D4/90	16/0
Williams, John L. (FB)	5-11/231	11-23-64	6	Florida	D1/86	16/16
RECEIVERS						
Blades, Brian	5-11/191	7-24-65	4	Miami (Fla.)	D2/88	16/16
Chadwick, Jeff	6-3/189	12-16-60	9	Grand Valley State (Mich.)	FA/89	16/0
Clark, Louis	6-0/198	7-3-64	5	Mississippi State	D10/87	4/0
Daniels, David	6-1/190	9-16-91	R	Penn State	D3/91	—
Ford, John	6-2/204	7-31-66	2	Virginia	FA/91	0/0
Heller, Ron (TE)	6-3/242	9-18-63	5	Oregon State	PlanB/90	16/5
Junkin, Trey (TE)	6-2/240	1-23-61	9	Louisiana Tech	FA/90	12/0
Kane, Tommy	5-11/181	1-14-64	4	Syracuse	D3/88	16/11
McNeal, Travis (TE)	6-3/244	1-10-67	3	UT-Chattanooga	D4a/89	16/14
Skansi, Paul	5-11/187	1-11-61	9	Washington	FA/85	16/0
Thomas, Doug	5-10/178	9-18-69	R	Clemson	D2/91	—
Tice, Mike (TE)	6-7/247	2-2-59	11	Maryland	FA/90	5/2
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Bailey, Edwin (G)	6-4/279	5-15-59	11	South Carolina State	D5/81	11/11
Briz, Darrick (G)	6-3/281	2-14-64	5	Oregon State	FA/89	16/5
Dyko, Chris (T)	6-6/295	3-16-66	2	Washington State	FA/90	1R
Eisenhooth, Stan (C)	6-5/291	7-8-63	3	Towson State	FA/91	0/0
Feasel, Grant (C)	6-7/279	6-28-60	7	Abilene (Tex.) Christian	FA/87	16/16
Harris, Ike (T)	6-4/272	12-24-67	R	South Carolina	D12/91	—
Heck, Andy (T)	6-6/286	1-1-67	3	Notre Dame	D1/89	16/16
Lee, Ronnie (T)	6-3/295	12-24-56	13	Baylor	T-Atl/90	15/9
Millard, Bryan (G)	6-5/277	12-2-60	8	Texas	FA/84	16/16
Singer, Curt (T)	6-5/292	11-4-61	4	Tennessee	FA/91	0/0
Tofflemire, Joe (C)	6-2/273	7-7-65	3	Arizona	D2/89	16/0
Wheat, Warren (G)	6-6/274	5-13-67	2	Brigham Young	W-Ram/89	0/0
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Bryant, Jeff (T)	6-5/281	5-22-60	10	Clemson	D1/82	15/14
Buczkowski, Bob (E)	6-5/261	5-5-64	4	Pittsburgh	T-Cle/91	*15/3
Green, Jacob (E)	6-3/256	1-21-57	12	Texas A&M	D1/80	16/16
Hayes, Eric (T)	6-3/297	11-12-67	2	Florida State	D5/90	16/0
Kennedy, Cortez (T)	6-3/293	8-23-68	2	Miami (Fla.)	D1/90	16/2
Nash, Joe (T)	6-3/278	10-11-60	10	Boston College	FA/82	16/16
Sinclair, Michael (E)	6-4/250	1-31-68	R	Eastern New Mexico	D6/91	—
Woods, Tony (E)	6-4/269	9-11-65	5	Pittsburgh	D1/87	16/15
LINEBACKERS						
Ahrens, Dave	6-4/247	12-5-58	11	Wisconsin	FA/90	0/0
Andrews, Ricky	6-2/236	4-14-66	2	Washington	FA/90	15/0
Cain, Joe	6-1/233	6-11-65	3	Oregon Tech	FA/89	16/5
Comeaux, Darren	6-1/239	4-15-60	10	Arizona State	W-SF/88	9/9
Cotton, Marcus	6-3/237	8-11-66	4	Southern California	PlanB/91	*14/1
Miller, Donald	6-2/223	4-6-64	2	Idaho State	FA/90	7/0
Newbill, Richard	6-1/240	2-8-68	1	Miami (Fla.)	FA/90	*3/0
Porter, Rufus	6-1/226	5-18-65	4	Southern (La.)	FA/89	12/12
Ringo, Erik	6-3/236	7-1-68	R	Hofstra	D10/91	—
Stephens, Rod	6-1/237	6-14-66	3	Georgia Tech	FA/90	4/0
Wooden, Terry	6-3/232	1-14-67	2	Syracuse	D2/90	8/8
Wyman, David	6-2/250	3-31-64	5	Stanford	D2/87	8/8
DEFENSIVE BACKS						
Blackmon, Robert (S)	6-0/198	5-12-67	2	Baylor	D2b/90	15/5
Davis, Brian (CB)	6-2/190	8-31-63	5	Nebraska	W-Was/90	*7/0
Davis, Harlan (CB)	6-0/191	8-4-67	R	Tennessee	D5/91	—
Glasgow, Nesby (S)	5-10/187	4-15-57	13	Washington	FA/88	16/13
Harper, Dwayne (CB)	5-11/174	3-29-66	4	South Carolina State	D11b/88	16/16
Hunter, Patrick (CB)	5-11/186	10-24-64	6	Nevada	D3/86	16/16
Jefferson, James (CB)	6-1/199	11-18-63	3	Texas A&I	FA/89	15/2
McElroy, Vann (S)	6-2/190	1-13-60	10	Baylor	T-Rai/90	*13/0
Robinson, Eugene (S)	6-0/190	5-28-63	7	Colgate	FA/85	16/16
Thompson, Kevin (S)	5-10/190	4-17-66	1	Oklahoma	PlanB/91	1R
SPECIALISTS						
Donnelly, Rick (P)	6-0/203	2-17-62	7	Wyoming	PlanB/90	16/0
Johnson, Norm (K)	6-2/203	5-31-60	10	UCLA	FA/82	16/0
Kasay, John (K)	5-10/186	10-27-69	R	Georgia	D4/91	—
OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP						
Derwin Brewer, WR; Chris Bromley, OL; Robert Chirico, DE; Douglas Craft, S; Stacy Danley, RB; Malcolm Frank, CB; Murray Garrett, DT; Howard Gasser, QB; Calvin Griggs, WR; Bill Hitchcock, T; Martin Hochertz, DE; Matt Keller, G; Nick Mazzoli, WR; Curtis McManus, WR; Mark Moore, DT; Robert Morris, DE; Shawn Purter, S; Bill Ragans, S; Aaron Ruffin, DB; Turnell Sims, G; James Speer, LB; Willie Thomas, CB; Alex Waits, P; Cecil Wilson, FB.						

*Not with Seahawks in 1990.

†Includes totals with both Seahawks and another NFL team in 1990.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

DID YOU KNOW ...

... that the Seahawks have no one left on their roster from the 1983, 1984 and 1985 drafts?

Scouting the NFC

All omens favor the Washington Redskins to win the NFC crown

By VITO STELLINO
Baltimore Morning Sun

If you believe in omens, this is the year for the Washington Redskins to win their third Super Bowl under Coach Joe Gibbs.

That's because the last time the New York Giants were defending champions—1987—the Redskins won it all. That also was the last year they beat the Giants.

The Redskins have lost nine of their last 10 non-strike games to the Giants. They swept them in 1987—once in a strike game—for their only victories over the Giants since 1985. If they can beat the Giants this year, they should win the National Football Conference's Eastern Division and go on to the Super Bowl.

Another good omen for the Redskins is the fact that they won the Super Bowl four years ago. Two other teams have won in four-year intervals in the last decade: The San Francisco 49ers won following the 1984 and '88 seasons, the Giants following the '86 and '90 seasons.

The Redskins figure to win the Super Bowl if they get there because the NFC has won seven straight Super Bowls. But there's one omen that could favor the American Football Conference representative against the Redskins: They were the last NFC team to lose a Super Bowl. They were routed by the Los Angeles Raiders, 38-9, in Super Bowl XVIII after the 1983 season.

PRO BOWL PICKS

Quarterback: Joe Montana, 49ers. Randall Cunningham of the Eagles puts on the best show, but Montana is the master.

Running backs: Barry Sanders, Lions, and Neal Anderson, Bears. The old black-and-blue division has the two best runners.

Wide receivers: Jerry Rice, 49ers, and Gary Clark, Redskins. Rice is in a class of his own, but they don't come any tougher than Clark when it comes to going over the middle.

Tight end: Keith Jackson, Eagles. He's a big target who can go deep and block.

Center: Jay Hilgenberg, Bears. He's a steady player who anchors the tough Chicago line.

Offensive guards: Randall McDaniel, Vikings, and Mark Bortz, Bears. Bortz is finally getting the recognition he deserves, while McDaniel is just hitting his peak.

Tackles: John Elliott, Giants, and Jim Lachey, Redskins. Elliott neutralized



Thinking big: Barry Sanders could rush for 2,000 yards this year.

Bruce Smith in the Super Bowl, while Lachey has performed in both conferences.

Nose tackle: Jerry Ball, Lions. His past contract problems haven't affected his play.

Defensive ends: Reggie White, Eagles, and Chris Doleman, Vikings. Two of the best at terrorizing opposing quarterbacks.

Outside linebackers: Carl Banks, Giants, and Pat Swilling, Saints. Lawrence Taylor is at that stage of his career where he gets by on reputation, but his teammate, Banks, and Swilling have surpassed him on the field.

Inside linebackers: Mike Singletary,

Bears, and Pepper Johnson, Giants. Singletary is going out on top. Johnson is usually overshadowed by teammates Taylor and Banks.

Cornerbacks: Darrell Green, Redskins, and Carl Lee, Vikings. Green is the sport's fastest man. Lee is so dependable, he's rarely tested.

Safeties: Joey Browner, Vikings, and Mark Carrier, Bears. Ronnie Lott has departed for the AFC, and his absence opens a spot for Carrier alongside Browner, who now is the best at the position.

Place-kicker: Morten Andersen, Saints. He's Mr. Automatic, although it helps to kick in a domed stadium.

Punter: Sean Landeta, Giants. He can boom them even in windy Giants Stadium in late December.

AWARD WINNERS

Offensive Player of the Year: Sanders, Lions. Now that the Lions will feature him instead of the run-and-shoot, he could run for 2,000 yards.

Defensive Player of the Year: White, Eagles. He's a one-man wrecking crew.

Rookie of the Year: Todd Lyght, CB, Rams. Los Angeles' porous secondary needs a guy like Lyght.

Comeback Player of the Year: Don Majkowski, QB, Packers. Majkowski brings the magic back to the Packers.

Coach of the Year: John Robinson, Rams. He'll bring his team back into contention after 1990's 5-11 disaster. ■

TSN's PREDICTIONS

Based on a poll of The Sporting News' regular NFC correspondents.

NFC EAST

1. **Washington:** They can go all the way if they get consistent quarterbacking.
2. **N.Y. Giants:** Even without Bill Parcells, New York is still a giant team.
3. **Philadelphia:** Randall Cunningham is great, but he can't do it alone.
4. **Dallas:** They still can't protect Troy Aikman.
5. **Phoenix:** Some things never change.

NFC CENTRAL

1. **Chicago:** Who said Mike Ditka was burned out?
2. **Minnesota:** Herschel Walker wasn't the answer.
3. **Green Bay:** The Packers need more Majik.
4. **Detroit:** Barry Sanders becomes a feature back this year.
5. **Tampa Bay:** Are the Bucs waiting for Bill Parcells to arrive?

NFC WEST

1. **San Francisco:** Despite Plan B losses, the 49ers still have Joe Montana.
2. **L.A. Rams:** After a Mr. Hyde '90, the Rams will regain their Dr. Jekyll persona.
3. **New Orleans:** The Saints won't march anywhere until they get a quarterback.
4. **Atlanta:** Jerry Glanville is entertaining, if nothing else.

NFC CHAMPION: WASHINGTON

Johnson is happy with latest Cowboy 'recruits'

By RICK GOSSELIN
Dallas Morning News

Jimmy Johnson has a theory about pro football scouting: it's a lot like college recruiting. While coaching at Miami (Fla.) in the mid-1980s, Johnson was an excellent recruiter. He had to be. College football teams are built on recruiting classes, and there are no shortcuts.

In the National Football League, of course, the draft is the lifeblood of all teams. But since becoming coach of the Dallas Cowboys in February 1989, Johnson has discovered a few shortcuts he didn't have in college. Namely, he now can trade for players he wants and acquire others through the league's Plan B free-agency system.

Johnson has quickly become a master at both. In his first 26 months with the Cowboys, he engineered 29 trades, with five of those players likely to start this year. He also has traded up in the last two drafts to get three players—running back Emmitt Smith, defensive tackle Russell Maryland and safety Stan Smagala—who figure prominently in the Cowboys' future. And Johnson has used Plan B to pick up three other likely 1991 starters—tight end Jay Novacek, fullback Tommie Agee and safety James Washington.

The Cowboys probably aren't good enough to return to the Super Bowl any time soon. But, unlike some other NFL teams, they seem to be headed in the



Diaper dandy: Emmitt Smith just missed becoming the first Cowboy rookie since 1977 to rush for 1,000 yards.

right direction.

COACHING

Johnson has worked wonders in a short time. He took a terrible team that had won just four games in two years and transformed it into a respectable

squad that wasn't officially eliminated from playoff contention until the final day of last season.

Johnson has shown no hesitancy to replace coaches as well as players. Dissatisfied with an offense that ranked last and next-to-last in the NFL the last two seasons, Johnson replaced offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach David Shula with Norv Turner, who favors a quick-style passing game. The contracts of tight ends coach Alan Lowry and defensive backfield coach Dick Nolan were not renewed. Those spots have been filled by Robert Ford and Ron Meeks.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—Troy Aikman is this team's franchise player. He's a good scrambler with a strong arm and reminds many people of a young John Elway. A year ago, Aikman had the Cowboys in position to claim a playoff berth with two games left before a shoulder injury ended his season. As it turned out, the Cowboys' season might as well have ended there as well.

Johnson was unsuccessful in his efforts to acquire a proven backup in the off-season, leaving 36-year-old Cliff Stoudt as the No. 2 man. Fourth-round draft pick Bill Musgrave (Oregon) will be an apprentice his rookie year.

RUNNING BACKS—Had he not missed training camp due to a contract hold-out, Emmitt Smith probably would have been the first Cowboy rookie since Tony Dorsett in 1977 to rush for 1,000 yards. As it was, he finished with 937 yards and 11 touchdowns.

Smith, however, was worn out by the end of the season, primarily because Dallas did not have a reliable backup. The Cowboys think that either second-year player Keith Jones or rookie Curvin Richards will rectify that problem in 1991. Jones has 4.3-second speed over 40 yards but missed last season with a knee injury. Richards, who left the University of Pittsburgh after his junior season, is similar to Smith in stature and style.

Alonzo Highsmith, who starred for Johnson as a collegian at Miami, sat out the final seven games last year with a foot injury. If he's healthy, he'll be the starting fullback. If not, Agee will get the nod, with Daryl Johnston seeing action as a receiver/blocker on third downs.

RECEIVERS—Kelvin Martin supplied the quantity and Michael Irvin the quality in the receiving corps last season. Martin caught a team-high 64 passes, while Irvin averaged 20.7 yards per catch with a team-high five touchdowns.

Martin, however, is a possession receiver who did not score a touchdown all year. Dallas was the league's third-

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: Dallas has great skill at the skill positions. The Cowboys boast No. 1 draft picks at quarterback (Troy Aikman), running back (Emmitt Smith) and wide receiver (Michael Irvin and Alvin Harper). Punter Mike Saxon and place-kicker Ken Willis both have reliable feet.

Weaknesses: Dallas was second in the league in pass defense last year but intercepted just 11 passes. Only three teams had fewer. Opponents avoid standout left cornerback Issiac Holt by exploiting a weak right side.

Keys to success: Finding a competent right cornerback and Aikman throwing fewer interceptions. He has thrown 36 in 26 career starts, most of them after seemingly putting the ball up for grabs.

Sure sign of trouble: If Aikman gets hurt. The alternative is Cliff Stoudt, who was unemployed when the Cowboys signed him in December and probably will be a year from now.

That's a fact: The Cowboys have had five straight losing years after setting an NFL record with 20 consecutive winning seasons from 1966 through '85.

Coach Jimmy Johnson says: "I think we'll be a playoff team. But the expectations are not only to be in the playoffs, but to have some success in the playoffs."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Irvin	A. Harper	Shepard
LT	Tuinei	E. Williams	Gogan
LG	Newton	J. Richards	Love
C	Stepnoski	Zeno	Hellestrae
RG	Gesek	Sullivan	Love
RT	Veingrad	Gogan	Newton
TE	Novacek	Roberts	Awalt
WR	Wright	K. Martin	Dixon
QB	Aikman	Stoudt	Musgrave
HB	E. Smith	C. Richards	K. Jones
FB	Highsmith	Agee	Johnston

DEFENSE

LE	Tolbert	Stubbs	Hill
LT	Maryland	Hamel	Tolbert
RT	Noonan	Broughton	Jeffcoat
RE	J. Jones	Jeffcoat	K. Harris
LOLB	Solomon	Myles	Del Rio
MLB	Del Rio	Brownlow	Solomon
ROLB	Norton	Edwards	V. Smith
LCB	Holt	R. Williams	Brown
RCB	Gant	Hendrix	R. Williams
SS	Washington	Albritton	Bates
FS	Smagala	Brooks	Horton

SPECIALISTS

K	Willis	Johnston
P	Saxon	Willis
KR	Wright	Dixon
PR	Shepard	K. Martin
		Mays

Continued

won't be back for No. 8. Although he led the team in tackles four of those years, Lockhart's lack of speed and mobility finally cost him his job.

To replace him, the Cowboys have moved Jack Del Rio from strongside linebacker to the middle. Del Rio is bigger, faster and younger than Lockhart and is more effective against the pass. Jesse Solomon, acquired in the October 1989 Herschel Walker trade, replaces Del Rio on the strongside. He has the size (232 pounds) to control the tight end at the point of attack and the speed (4.57 in the 40) to stay with him in coverage.

Ken Norton will be the weakside starter even though he might be better suited for strongside duty.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—Johnson likes big-play people in the secondary, which should assure jobs for Issiac Holt at left cornerback and James Washington at one of the safety spots. Holt returned an interception for a touchdown last year and also blocked two punts. Washington tied Holt for the team lead with three interceptions and also recovered a team-high five fumbles.

If Washington starts at free safety, veteran Vince Albritton, who missed the final eight games last year with a deep thigh bruise, will return to strong safety. If Washington plays strong safety, Smagala would likely replace Ray Horton at free safety. Smagala was a 1990 fifth-round draft pick of the Raiders who missed the final 13 games of his rookie year with a broken arm. The Cowboys moved him from cornerback to free safety to take advantage of his aggressiveness and 4.4 speed.

After giving Robert Williams a shot at the right cornerback job in 1989 and Manny Hendrix a shot last year, Kenneth Gant is next in line for a tryout. Gant has good man-to-man cover skills and 4.4 speed. Plan B signee Odie Harris figures to push nine-year veteran Bill Bates for playing time as a nickel back.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Dallas kickers last season were good, but the coverage units were bad. The Cowboys finished 22nd in kickoff coverage and 26th in punt coverage, with each unit giving up one score.

Two likely additions will be Harris, a special-teams standout with Tampa Bay last year, and second-round draftee Dixon Edwards, who played on the Michigan State special teams.

Punter Mike Saxon and place-kicker Ken Willis are both solid performers. Saxon averaged 43.2 yards per kick last season, while Willis missed just three of 21 field-goal attempts of less than 50 yards. Wright returned a kickoff 90 yards for a touchdown against the Giants and is probably the Cowboys' best big-play threat as a kick returner. Derrick Shepard figures to return punts.



1991 DALLAS COWBOYS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL Exp.	College	How acq.	'90 Games GP/GS
Aikman, Troy	6-4/218	11-21-66	3	UCLA	D1/89	15/15
Laufenberg, Babe	6-3/214	12-5-59	7	Indiana	FA/89	4/1
Musgrave, Bill	6-2/196	11-11-67	R	Oregon	FA/91	—
Stoudt, Cliff	6-4/222	3-27-55	12	Youngstown State	FA/90	0/0
RUNNING BACKS						
Agee, Tommie (FB)	6-0/223	2-22-64	4	Auburn	PlanB/90	16/11
Boles, Tony	6-1/196	12-11-67	R	Michigan	D11/91	—
Dixon, James	5-10/184	2-2-67	3	Houston	W-Det/89	15/1
Highsmith, Alonzo (FB)	6-1/237	2-28-65	5	Miami (Fla.)	T-Hou/90	7/5
Johnston, Daryl	6-2/238	2-10-66	3	Syracuse	D2a/89	16/0
Jones, Keith	5-10/180	2-5-66	2	Nebraska	PlanB/90	IR
Richards, Curvin	5-9/200	12-26-68	R	Pittsburgh	D4/91	—
Smith, Emmitt	5-9/203	5-15-69	2	Florida	D1/90	16/15
RECEIVERS						
Awalt, Rob (TE)	6-5/238	4-9-64	5	San Diego State	T-Pho/90	13/1
Folsom, Steve (TE)	6-5/240	3-21-58	6	Utah	FA/87	1/0
Harper, Alvin	6-3/204	7-6-67	R	Tennessee	D1a/91	—
Hudson, Craig (TE)	6-3/245	5-1-67	1	Wisconsin	PlanB/91	0/0
Irvin, Michael	6-2/199	3-5-66	4	Miami (Fla.)	D1/88	12/7
Martin, Kelvin	5-9/163	5-14-65	5	Boston College	D4/87	16/16
Mays, Damon	5-9/166	5-20-68	R	Missouri	D9/91	—
Novacek, Jay (TE)	6-4/230	10-24-62	7	Wyoming	PlanB/90	16/15
Roberts, Alfredo (TE)	6-3/246	3-17-65	4	Miami (Fla.)	PlanB/91	*16/13
Shepard, Derrick	5-10/181	1-22-64	4	Oklahoma	W-NO/89	8/0
Wright, Alexander	6-0/189	7-19-67	2	Auburn	D2/90	15/1
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Gesek, John (G)	6-5/283	2-18-63	5	Sacramento (Calif.) State	T-Rai/90	15/12
Gogan, Kevin (G/T)	6-7/311	11-2-64	5	Washington	D8/87	16/4
Hellestrae, Dale (G/C)	6-5/275	7-11-62	5	Southern Methodist	T-Rai/90	16/0
Love, Sean (G)	6-3/285	9-6-68	R	Penn State	D10/91	—
Newton, Nate (T)	6-3/322	12-20-61	6	Florida A&M	FA/86	16/16
Richards, James (G)	6-4/289	11-7-69	R	California	D3a/91	—
Stepnoski, Mark (C/G)	6-2/266	1-20-67	3	Pittsburgh	D3/89	16/16
Sullivan, Mike (G)	6-3/278	12-22-67	R	Miami (Fla.)	D6/91	—
Tuinei, Mark (T)	6-5/293	3-31-60	9	Hawaii	FA/83	13/13
Veingrad, Alan (T)	6-5/281	7-24-63	5	East Texas State	PlanB/91	*16/4
Williams, Erik (T)	6-5/304	9-7-68	R	Central State (O.)	D3b/91	—
Zimmerman, Jeff	6-3/332	1-10-65	5	Florida	D3/87	6/0
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Broughton, Willie (T)	6-5/280	9-9-64	5	Miami (Fla.)	FA/89	4/0
Hamel, Dean (T)	6-3/271	7-7-61	7	Tulsa	T-Was/89	12/11
Harris, Kevin (E)	6-5/248	10-21-69	R	Texas Southern	D4c/91	—
Hill, Tony (E)	6-6/250	10-23-68	R	UT-Chattanooga	D4b/91	—
Jeffcoat, Jim (E)	6-5/264	4-1-61	9	Arizona State	D1/83	16/13
Jones, Jimmie (E)	6-4/272	1-9-66	2	Miami (Fla.)	D3/90	16/6
Lett, Leon	6-6/273	10-12-68	R	Emporia (Kan.) State	D7/91	—
Maryland, Russell (T)	6-1/274	3-22-69	R	Miami (Fla.)	D1/91	—
Noonan, Danny (T)	6-4/266	7-14-65	5	Nebraska	D1/87	16/15
Stubbs, Daniel (E)	6-4/264	1-3-65	4	Miami (Fla.)	T-SF/90	16/15
Tolbert, Tony (E)	6-6/254	12-29-67	3	Texas-El Paso	D4/89	16/4
LINEBACKERS						
Brownlow, Darrick	5-10/245	12-28-68	R	Illinois	D5/91	—
Crockett, Willis	6-3/234	8-25-66	2	Georgia Tech	D5a/89	13/0
Del Rio, Jack	6-4/232	4-4-63	7	Southern California	FA/89	16/16
Edwards, Dixon	6-1/220	3-25-68	R	Michigan State	D2/91	—
Harper, David	6-1/220	5-5-66	2	Humboldt State (Calif.)	D11/90	6/0
Myles, Godfrey	6-1/242	9-22-68	R	Florida	D3/91	—
Norton, Ken	6-2/237	9-29-66	4	UCLA	D2/88	15/15
Smith, Vinson	6-2/225	7-3-65	3	East Carolina	PlanB/90	16/1
Solomon, Jesse	6-0/235	11-4-63	6	Florida State	T-Min/89	9/0
DEFENSIVE BACKS						
Albritton, Vince (S)	6-2/212	7-23-62	8	Washington	FA/84	8/8
Bates, Bill (S)	6-1/204	6-6-61	9	Tennessee	FA/83	16/0
Brooks, Michael	6-0/195	3-12-67	2	North Carolina State	FA/90	*4/0
Brown, Larry	5-11/184	11-30-69	R	Texas Christian	D12/91	—
Gant, Kenneth (CB)	5-11/181	4-18-67	2	Albany (Ga.) State	D9/90	12/0
Harris, Odie	6-0/190	4-1-66	4	Sam Houston State	PlanB/91	*16/0
Hendrix, Manny (CB)	5-10/185	10-20-64	6	Utah	FA/86	16/11
Holt, Issiac (CB)	6-2/198	10-4-62	7	Alcorn State	T-Min/89	15/15
Horton, Ray (S)	5-11/186	4-12-60	9	Washington	PlanB/89	14/14
Smagala, Stan (S)	5-10/184	4-6-68	2	Notre Dame	T-Rai/90	3/0
Washington, James (S)	6-1/195	1-10-65	4	UCLA	PlanB/90	15/10
Williams, Robert (CB)	5-10/186	10-2-62	5	Baylor	FA/87	16/6
SPECIALISTS						
Saxon, Mike (P)	6-3/200	7-10-62	7	San Diego State	FA/85	16/0
Willis, Ken (K)	5-11/189	10-6-66	2	Kentucky	FA/90	16/0

OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP

Cary Blanchard, K; Freddie Childress, G; Reggie Cooper, LB; Rich Gicewicz, TE; John Jarvis, WR; Ricky Martin, RB; Keith Powe, DE; Donald Smith, CB; Reginald Warnsley, FB; Lance Zeno, G/C.

*Not with Cowboys in 1990.

†Includes totals with both Cowboys and another NFL team in 1990.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

DID YOU KNOW...

... that only 14 players remain from the Cowboy team Jimmy Johnson inherited from Tom Landry in February 1989?

Can history repeat itself? The Giants hope it can

By ERNIE PALLADINO
Gannett Westchester Newspapers

Despite all that he had accomplished in his eight years at the helm, Bill Parcells had little trouble stepping down as coach of the New York Giants on May 15.

"It was time," said the man who had guided the Giants to their only two Super Bowl championships, the last one in January.

Likewise, the Giants had little trouble finding a successor. On the same day Parcells retired, they introduced 46-year-old assistant Ray Handley as their new head coach.

Handley was an easy choice, much like San Francisco's George Seifert had been in 1989 when Bill Walsh retired after the 49ers won Super Bowl XXIII. Seifert, who had been the team's defensive coordinator, helped the 49ers repeat as champion in his first season as head coach. The Giants envision similar repeat success with Handley, who had been the team's running backs coach under Parcells the last seven years.

Handley will have to make many tough decisions this season, not the least of which is at quarterback. Phil Simms has been the Giants' undisputed starter since 1979, but Jeff Hostetler's strong playoff performance and Super Bowl triumph has thrown a monkey wrench into the equation. Handley said it will be a fair, even competition com-



Aging gracefully: Lawrence Taylor went to a record 10th consecutive Pro Bowl despite registering just 10½ sacks, his lowest total since 1983.

ing into camp.

"I'm in an enviable position," Handley said. "I've got two quarterbacks who have won Super Bowls. I can't make the wrong decision because I'll have the best backup quarterback in football."

Handley won't have a shot at making National Football League history this year. Seifert already has done that. He does, however, have a legion of Giants fans to placate and a level of success to maintain.

"I'm not looking to improve," Handley said. "I'm looking to emulate."

The Giants are solid enough for that.

COACHING

Handley is entering his first year as a head coach at any level. His background is in run-oriented offenses. As a player at Stanford in the early 1960s, he set numerous school rushing records that were later broken by Darrin Nelson. Handley served as a running backs coach at his alma mater from 1979 through '82 after an earlier stint as a linebackers coach there in 1971-72.

Handley is blessed with a staff of veteran assistants. The group includes former New England coach Ron Erhardt as assistant head coach, Al Groh (defensive coordinator/linebackers), Romeo Crennel (defensive line) and Fred Hoaglin (offensive line). Parcells brought in two new coaches—Jim Fassel (quarterbacks) and Fred Bruney (defensive backfield)—before departing.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—Simms is No. 1 on the depth chart, but Hostetler—for the first time in his eight-year career—has a legitimate shot at opening the season as the starter.

Simms was having one of his best seasons ever before Buffalo's Leon Seals ended it by breaking Simms' right foot in Week 14. Simms missed New York's final two games and the entire postseason but still ended up No. 1 in the National Football Conference with a 92.7 quarterback rating. He completed 59.2 percent of his passes for 2,284 yards, 15 touchdowns and a career-low four interceptions.

Hostetler did a remarkable job in the playoffs, completing 59.2 percent of his attempts while throwing for three touchdowns with no interceptions. He's more mobile than Simms, which gives his receivers extra time to get open.

RUNNING BACKS—After a dozen National Football League seasons and countless beatings, does Ottis Anderson

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Baker	Milling	McCaffrey
LT	Elliott	Moore	Roberts
LG	Roberts	Kratch	Moore
C	Oates	B. Williams	
RG	Moore	Kratch	Roberts
RT	Riesenberg	Roberts	
TE	Bavaro	Cross	Mrosko
WR	Ingram	McCaffrey	Milling
QB	Simms	Hostetler	Cavanaugh
TB	Anderson	Hampton	Tillman
FB	Carthon	Bunch	

DEFENSE

LE	Dorsey	Washington	Fox
NT	Howard	Fox	Washington
RE	Marshall	Washington	Moss
LILB	Banks	Cooks	Moss
LILB	DeOssie	Reasons	Cooks
RILB	Johnson	Reasons	Miller
ROLB	Taylor	McGhee	Cooks
LCB	Collins	Thompson	Carter
RCB	Walls	P. Williams	
SS	White	Jackson	Duerson
FS	Guyton	Jackson	Duerson

SPECIALISTS

K	Bahr	Reasons
P	Landeta	
KR	Hampton	Meggett
PR	Meggett	Hampton

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: An aggressive defense that is outstanding against the run and tough inside its 20-yard line. The Giants yielded a league-low 211 points last season and gave up an average of 91.2 yards rushing per game (fourth in the NFL). Offensively, the Giants' running game keeps the clock running, the chains moving and opposing offenses off the field.

Weaknesses: A thin receiving corps that lacks a deep threat. Stephen Baker and Mark Ingram both were inconsistent in 1990 and combined for only 52 receptions. If rookie Ed McCaffrey develops into a quality pass catcher, the Giants may be able to open up the offense more.

Keys to success: Finding an adequate replacement for tight end Mark Bavaro—if he can't come back after serious knee surgery—and finding more playing time for running back Rodney Hampton.

Sure sign of trouble: If the Giants lose their season-opening Monday-night game against San Francisco. These teams always seem to play gut-wrenching affairs, and losing an emotional game early in the season might lead to a rocky start.

That's a fact: The five interceptions thrown by Giants quarterbacks in 1990 were the fewest ever by an NFL team in a 16-game regular season. Ironically, Kansas City set the same record last season.

Coach Ray Handley says: "Whenever you're on top, it's just a little tougher to stay there. But (the players) think everything's going to pick up where it left off. It's the same attitude."

Continued

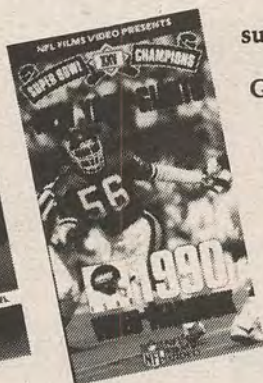
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COACHES

Head coach: Ray Handley.

Assistant coaches:

Fred Bruney (defensive backfield).

Romeo Crennel (defensive line).

Ron Erhardt (assistant head coach).

Jim Fassel (quarterbacks).

Al Groh (defensive coordinator/linebackers).

Fred Hoaglin (offensive line).

Johnny Parker (strength and conditioning).

Mike Pope (tight ends).

George Sefcik (wide receivers).

Mike Sweatman (special teams).

Bobby Trott (defensive assistant).

Charlie Weis (running backs).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1990 regular-season record: 13-3 (1st in NFC East); 7-1 in division; 10-2 in conference; 7-1 at home; 6-2 on road.

1990 playoff record: Defeated Bears, 31-3, in NFC divisional playoff game; defeated 49ers, 15-13, in NFC championship game; defeated Bills, 20-19, in Super Bowl.

Handley's regular-season record: First year as NFL head coach.

Team record last five years: 55-24 (.696, ranks 2nd in league in that span).

1990 team rankings:

	NFC	NFL
Total offense.....	9	17
Rushing offense.....	4	8
Passing offense.....	11	22
Scoring offense.....	9	15
Total defense.....	1	2
Rushing defense.....	4	4
Passing defense.....	3	6
Scoring defense.....	1	1
Takeaways.....	5	8
Giveaways.....	1	1
Turnover differential.....	1	2
Sacks.....	T12	T24
Sacks allowed.....	3	T7

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

Stadium (capacity): Giants Stadium (77,311).

Ticket information: 201-935-8111.

Flagship radio station: WNEW, 1130 AM.

Training site: Fairleigh Dickinson U.-Madison, Madison, N.J.; 201-935-8111.

1991 SCHEDULE

Sept. 2	SAN FRANCISCO (Mon.)	9:00
Sept. 8	L.A. RAMS	1:00
Sept. 15	at Chicago	12:00
Sept. 22	CLEVELAND	1:00
Sept. 29	at Dallas	12:00
Oct. 6	PHOENIX	4:00
Oct. 14	at Pittsburgh (Mon.)	9:00
Oct. 20	Open date	
Oct. 27	WASHINGTON	8:00
Nov. 4	at Philadelphia (Mon.)	9:00
Nov. 10	at Phoenix	2:00
Nov. 17	DALLAS	4:00
Nov. 24	at Tampa Bay	1:00
Dec. 1	at Cincinnati	4:00
Dec. 8	PHILADELPHIA	1:00
Dec. 15	at Washington	4:00
Dec. 21	HOUSTON (Sat.)	12:30

All times local.

All games Sunday unless noted.

1990 RESULTS

Sept. 9	PHILADELPHIA	27-20
Sept. 16	at Dallas	28-7
Sept. 23	MIAMI	20-3
Sept. 30	DALLAS	31-17
Oct. 7	Open date	
Oct. 14	at Washington	24-20
Oct. 21	PHOENIX	20-19
Oct. 28	WASHINGTON	21-10
Nov. 5	at Indianapolis	24-7
Nov. 11	at L.A. Rams	31-7
Nov. 18	DETROIT	20-0
Nov. 25	at Philadelphia	13-31
Dec. 3	at San Francisco	3-7
Dec. 9	MINNESOTA	23-15
Dec. 15	BUFFALO	13-17
Dec. 23	at Phoenix	24-21
Dec. 30	at New England	13-10

1990 LEADERS

Scoring (kicking): Matt Bahr, 80 pts. (29/30 PATs, 17/23 FGs).

Scoring (touchdowns): Ottis Anderson, 66 pts. (11 rushing).

Passing: Phil Simms, 2,284 yds. (311 att., 184 comp., 59.2%, 15 TDs, 4 int.).

Rushing: Ottis Anderson, 784 yds. (225 att., 3.5 avg., 11 TDs).

Receptions: David Meggett, 39 (410 yds., 10.5 avg., 1 TD).

Interceptions: Everson Walls, 6 (80 yds., 1 TD).

Tackles: Pepper Johnson, 119 (83 solo, 36 assisted).

Sacks: Lawrence Taylor, 10.5.

Punting: Sean Landeta, 44.1 avg. (75 punts, 3,306 yds., 0 blocked).

Punt returns: David Meggett, 10.9 avg. (43 att., 467 yds., 1 TD).

Kickoff returns: David Meggett, 23.4 avg. (21 att., 492 yds., 0 TDs).

have much gas left in his 34-year-old tank?

Perhaps. But even if Anderson can't duplicate his 1990 season (225 carries for 784 yards and 11 touchdowns), the Giants have eager Rodney Hampton waiting in reserve. Hampton ran inside, outside, caught passes, blocked and did everything the Giants asked of him in his rookie season.

The coaches hope fullback Maurice Carthon has one more good year left before he gives way to Jarrod Bunch (Michigan), the Giants' No. 1 draft pick. Carthon also could see significant action in a three-tight-end alignment if starting tight end Mark Bavaro fails to come back from off-season bone-replacement knee surgery.

Dave Meggett adds a pass-catching threat on third down, while Lewis Tillman again will play a limited role.

RECEIVERS—Mark Ingram and Stephen Baker were the only wide receivers the Giants protected in Plan B. Neither player was among the conference's top pass catchers, which says something about the Giants' aerial game. This is a team that, at least under Parcells, used the pass to set up the run.

The Giants drafted a potential big-target receiver in 6-foot-5, 215-pound Ed McCaffrey of Stanford and brought in promising speedster James Milling (formerly with Atlanta) via Plan B. Howard Cross will be one tight end and, if he's healthy, Bavaro will be the other.

LINEMEN—The Giants are loaded with strong, massive veterans who seem to improve every year.

The oldest (and lightest) of the pile-pushers is 32-year-old Pro Bowl center Bart Oates, a 265-pounder who may retire after 1991 to pursue a law career.

John Elliott's 305-pound frame and improved pass blocking have made him one of the game's top left tackles. He made a big impression last year when he returned from an eight-week convalescence with a broken leg to neutralize a pass-rushing Murderers' Row of Chris Doleman, Bruce Smith, Ken Harvey, Andre Tippett, Richard Dent and Charles Haley. He then shut down Smith again in the Super Bowl.

Right tackle Doug Riesenberger and guards William Roberts and Eric Moore round out a solid group of starters. Bob Kratch is a backup at guard, while 300-pound Brian Williams, a former No. 1 pick, is being groomed to replace Oates.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—If the Giants are deep enough in any one area to overcome injuries, this is it. Their talented linemen were nearly impossible to run against last season.

Pro Bowl nose tackle Erik Howard, who has honed his pass-rushing techniques, anchors the front three. End Leonard Marshall should improve from a subpar 1990 season caused in part by a contract holdout.

Name	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING				Defensive TDs	Total TDs
	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	18-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs		
Anderson	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Bahr	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	5	-	29	-	-
Baker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	4
Bavaro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Duerson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1
Hampton	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Hostetler	-	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Ingram	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Meggett	-	-	-	-	-	1*	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Milling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Mrosko	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Simms	6	6	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
Taylor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1
Tillman	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Walls	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1

* fumble recovery. * interception. ° punt return.

Eric Dorsey, who also is trying to rebound from a mediocre season, will be pushed hard at left end by veteran John Washington, a good run-stuffer. The Giants also love the way Mike Fox came around toward the end of his rookie year.

LINEBACKERS—Age is creeping into this unit, but none of these guys is ready for an old-folks home.

Lawrence Taylor went to a record 10th consecutive Pro Bowl last year despite having just 10½ sacks, his lowest total since 1983. His outside bookend, eight-year man Carl Banks, is healthy again after missing six games following wrist surgery.

Pepper Johnson earned his first Pro Bowl berth in 1990 and is on the verge of becoming one of the league's top linebackers. Run-stopper Steve DeOssie and mobile Gary Reasons again will rotate at the other inside position. Second-round draft pick Kanavis McGhee (Colorado) is pegged as an outside backup.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—There will be competition for jobs at right cornerback and strong safety. Regardless of who wins, the Giants are in good shape.

At corner, 31-year-old Everson Walls will try to relegate his predecessor, Perry Williams, to nickel-back status for a second straight season. At safety, Adrian White is hoping to rebound from reconstructive knee surgery and wrest the starting spot from Greg Jackson.

Williams is a bigger hitter than Walls, but the former Dallas star, who led the Giants with six interceptions last year, compensates with excellent cover skills. White was on the verge of winning the starting job from Jackson last year before tearing up his knee in the final preseason game.

Left cornerback Mark Collins deserved but didn't get a Pro Bowl invitation last season. He might get one in 1991. Free safety Myron Guyton enjoys letting receivers who cross the middle know he's there.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Few teams are as solid here as New York. The elusive Meggett compiled the second-best punt-return average (10.9 yards) in the NFC last year. And few players cover kicks as well as Reyna Thompson, whose aggressiveness earned him a spot in last year's Pro Bowl. Sean Landeta led the conference with a 37.3-yard net punting average and put a league-high 24 kicks inside the opposition's 20-yard line.

Sturdy Matt Bahr again should be the place-kicker. A year ago, he didn't make half of his field-goal attempts beyond 40 yards (five of 11), but he didn't miss a kick inside 40 yards, either. Bahr kicks well under pressure, as evidenced by his 42-yard game-winner as time expired against San Francisco in last year's NFC championship game.



1991 NEW YORK GIANTS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	HI./WT.	Born	NFL Exp.	College	How acq.	'90 Games GP/GS
Cavanaugh, Matt.....	6-2/210	10-27-56	14	Pittsburgh	FA/90	0/0
Hostetler, Jeff.....	6-3/212	4-22-61	8	West Virginia	D3/84	16/2
Simms, Phil.....	6-3/214	11-3-55	12	Morehead State	D1/79	14/14
Wanke, Larry.....	6-3/220	4-2-68	R	John Carroll (O.)	D12/91	—
RUNNING BACKS						
Anderson, Ottis.....	6-2/225	11-19-57	13	Miami (Fla.)	T-StL/86	16/11
Bunch, Jarrod (FB).....	6-2/248	8-9-68	R	Michigan	D1/91	—
Carthon, Maurice.....	6-1/225	4-24-61	7	Arkansas	FA/85	16/13
Hampton, Rodney.....	5-11/215	4-3-69	2	Georgia	D1/90	15/2
Meggett, David.....	5-7/180	4-30-66	3	Towson State	D5/89	16/1
Tillman, Lewis.....	6-0/195	4-16-66	3	Jackson State	D4/89	16/3
RECEIVERS						
Ashe, Richard (TE).....	6-5/252	3-14-67	3	Humboldt State (Calif.)	FA/91	*1/0
Baker, Stephen.....	5-8/160	8-30-64	5	Fresno State	D3/87	16/8
Bavaro, Mark (TE).....	6-4/245	4-28-63	7	Notre Dame	D4/85	15/15
Bouldin, Jerry.....	6-0/190	1-7-69	R	Mississippi State	D9/91	—
Cross, Howard (TE).....	6-5/245	8-8-67	3	Alabama	D6/89	16/8
Ingram, Mark.....	5-10/188	8-23-65	5	Michigan State	D1/87	16/14
McCaffrey, Ed.....	6-5/215	8-17-68	R	Stanford	D3/91	—
Milling, James.....	5-9/156	2-14-65	4	Maryland	PlanB/91	*13/0
Mrosko, Bob (TE).....	6-5/270	11-13-65	4	Penn State	FA/90	16/2
Popson, Ted (TE).....	6-4/245	9-10-66	R	Portland (Ore.) State	D11/91	—
Robinson, Stacy.....	5-11/186	2-19-62	7	North Dakota State	FA/90	5/0
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Cristobal, Luis (G).....	6-3/290	1-4-68	R	Miami (Fla.)	D10/91	—
Elliott, John (T).....	6-7/305	4-1-65	4	Michigan	D2/88	8/8
Jones, Clarence (T).....	6-6/280	5-6-68	R	Maryland	D4/91	—
Kratch, Bob (G).....	6-3/288	1-6-66	3	Iowa	D3/89	14/10
Moore, Eric (T).....	6-5/268	1-21-65	4	Indiana	D1/88	15/14
Oates, Bart (C).....	6-3/265	12-16-58	7	Brigham Young	FA/85	16/16
Rehder, Tom (G/T).....	6-7/290	1-27-65	4	Notre Dame	FA/90	8/0
Riesenberg, Doug (T).....	6-5/275	7-22-65	5	California	D6a/87	16/16
Roberts, William (T).....	6-5/280	8-5-62	7	Ohio State	D1a/84	16/16
Williams, Brian (C/G).....	6-5/300	6-8-66	3	Minnesota	D1/89	16/1
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Dorsey, Eric (E).....	6-5/280	8-5-64	6	Notre Dame	D1/86	16/11
Downing, Tim (E).....	6-5/260	4-9-67	1	Washington State	D11/90	0/0
Fox, Mike (E).....	6-6/275	8-5-67	2	West Virginia	D2/90	16/0
Howard, Erik (NT).....	6-4/268	11-12-64	6	Washington State	D2a/86	16/16
James, Clint (E).....	6-6/270	4-17-67	1	Louisiana State	D9/90	IR
Marshall, Leonard (E).....	6-3/285	10-22-61	9	Louisiana State	D2/83	16/6
Washington, John (E).....	6-4/275	2-20-63	6	Oklahoma State	D3/86	16/13
LINEBACKERS						
Abrams, Bobby.....	6-3/230	4-12-67	2	Michigan	FA/85	16/0
Banks, Carl.....	6-4/235	8-29-62	8	Michigan State	D1/84	9/8
Cooks, Johnie.....	6-4/251	11-23-58	10	Mississippi State	FA/88	14/6
DeOssie, Steve.....	6-2/248	11-22-62	8	Boston College	T-Dal/89	16/13
Johnson, Pepper.....	6-3/248	6-29-64	6	Ohio State	D2b/86	16/16
McGhee, Kanavis.....	6-4/257	10-4-68	R	Colorado	D2/91	—
McGrew, Larry.....	6-6/250	7-23-57	11	Southern California	FA/90	11/1
Miller, Corey.....	6-2/255	10-25-68	R	South Carolina	D6/91	—
Moss, Tony.....	6-4/240	10-12-67	R	Florida State	D5/91	—
Reasons, Gary.....	6-4/234	2-18-62	8	Northwestern (La.) State	D4a/84	16/3
Taylor, Lawrence.....	6-3/243	2-4-59	11	North Carolina	D1/81	16/16
DEFENSIVE BACKS						
Brown, Roger (CB).....	6-0/196	12-16-66	2	Virginia Tech	FA/90	5/0
Carter, Simmie.....	5-11/185	4-19-67	R	Southern Mississippi	D7/91	—
Collins, Mark (CB).....	5-10/190	1-16-64	6	Cal State Fullerton	D2/86	13/12
Duerson, Dave (S).....	6-1/208	11-28-60	9	Notre Dame	FA/90	16/2
Guyton, Myron.....	6-1/205	8-26-67	3	Eastern Kentucky	D8/89	16/16
Jackson, Greg (S).....	6-1/200	8-20-66	3	Louisiana State	D3a/89	14/14
Kaumeyer, Thom (S).....	5-11/190	3-17-67	4	Oregon	PlanB/91	*7/0
McGriggs, Lamar.....	6-3/210	5-9-68	R	Western Illinois	D8/91	—
Thompson, Reyna (CB).....	6-0/193	8-28-63	6	Baylor	FA/89	16/4
Walls, Everson (CB).....	6-1/194	12-28-59	11	Grambling State	FA/90	16/16
White, Adrian (S).....	6-0/200	4-6-64	4	Florida	D2/87	IR
Williams, Perry (CB).....	6-2/203	5-12-61	8	North Carolina State	D7/83	16/2
SPECIALISTS						
Bahr, Matt (K).....	5-10/175	7-6-56	14	Penn State	FA/90	13/0
Doyle, Philip (K).....	6-1/205	3-20-69	R	Alabama	FA/91	—
Landeta, Sean (P).....	6-0/200	1-6-62	7	Towson State	FA/85	16/0

*Not with Giants in 1990.
Key to abbreviations on page 160.

DID YOU KNOW...

... that the Giants drafted three linebackers (Kanavis McGhee, Tony Moss and Corey Miller) for the first time since 1984? That class produced Carl Banks and Gary Reasons.

Eagles hope to soar without the Buddy system

By PHIL ANASTASIA
Camden Courier-Post

Many National Football League teams would consider 31 victories and three playoff appearances in as many seasons a success. Not the Philadelphia Eagles.

Three days after his team lost its first playoff game for the third year in a row, Eagles Owner Norman Braman fired Coach Buddy Ryan and selected offensive coordinator Rich Kotite to take his place. Braman wants the Eagles to reach that elusive "next level" and figures Kotite is the man to take them there.

But it's a gamble. Kotite has been an NFL assistant coach for 14 years but has never been a head coach. And with the 1991 Eagles, winning in the regular season alone won't cut it. Ryan's last three teams won 10, 11 and 10 games, but it was his trifecta of playoff defeats that earned Ryan a one-way ticket to his horse farm in Kentucky.

"I wasn't hired to just coach," Kotite said. "I was hired to win. I understand that. It comes with the territory."

"Another new coach, when the honeymoon period is over, he's still got a 1-15 team. I've got a good football team. I like the situation here."

He'll like it a lot more if the Eagles win a playoff game.

COACHING

Ryan was extremely popular with his players, and his dismissal caused some



All for one, one for all? Quarterback Randall Cunningham has been criticized by his teammates for being selfish and preoccupied with his own stardom.

hard feelings. But Kotite, an enthusiastic, positive person, seems to have won over some hard-core Ryan loyalists.

The changes in the coaching staff extend well beyond the top job. Former Cleveland head coach Bud Carson was hired to coordinate the defense, something he did successfully for five different NFL teams before spending two ill-fated years with the Browns. Other new coaches on board are Jim Vechiarella (linebackers), Dick Wood (running backs) and Zeke Bratkowski (quarterbacks). Dave Atkins has been switched from running backs to special teams.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—Randall Cunningham is the undisputed No. 1 quarterback on this team, but that doesn't mean he's immune from adversity. First, he was benched for one series in the 20-6 playoff loss to Washington. Later, he was criticized by teammates for being selfish and preoccupied with his own stardom.

After a players-only meeting April 1 to air out the problems, Cunningham vowed to start using the word "we" more than "I" and to start spreading the credit for the team's success.

On the field in 1990, Cunningham could not have been much better. He passed for 30 touchdowns with 13 interceptions and rushed for a whopping 942 yards—the latter figure the fourth-best total in the National Football Conference.

His bane has been the playoffs. He has been at the controls for Philadelphia's three postseason defeats and thrown five interceptions and no touchdowns in those games.

Jim McMahon, who will be 32 by the start of the season, rarely played last year but will be the backup again. Kotite invited him back for another year after McMahon was left unprotected in Plan B but didn't sign with another team.

RUNNING BACKS—It says a lot about your running attack when the top rusher is your quarterback. Cunningham filled that role for Philadelphia in 1990—for the fourth straight year.

Except for Cunningham, Keith Byars probably is the Eagles' biggest backfield threat—and he's primarily a pass catcher. He had a team-high 81 receptions last year. Byars also is a terrific blocker, but he rushed for only 141 yards on 37 attempts.

Heath Sherman showed real promise as a runner last season (685 yards, with two 100-yard games), but he was fumble-prone. Thomas Sanders, Anthony Toney, Robert Drummond and Roger Vick also figure into the mix at this position.

RECEIVERS—The Eagles went looking for wide receivers in the 1990 draft and uncovered two gems: Fred Barnett (third round) and Calvin Williams

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: Randall Cunningham makes more big plays than any other NFL quarterback. The defensive line, led by tackle Jerome Brown and end Reggie White, is one of the best in pro football. Receivers like Keith Byars, Keith Jackson, Calvin Williams and Fred Barnett combine with Cunningham to give the Eagles an explosive passing attack.

Weaknesses: Unless Antone Davis is this year's Richmond Webb—an instant Pro Bowl rookie tackle—the offensive line is a big concern. The Philadelphia running game scares no one. And how will three consecutive playoff losses play on this team's psyche?

Keys to success: As usual, Cunningham and White must stay healthy. Davis must make an immediate impact. And the players must put the Buddy Ryan era behind them and put their faith in Rich Kotite and his assistants.

Sure sign of trouble: A slow start. The easiest part of the Eagles' schedule comes early, and too many quick losses will hurt in the standings and in Kotite's efforts to get the players to accept his program.

That's a fact: Cunningham needs just 238 yards to supplant Fran Tarkenton as the NFL's all-time rushing leader among quarterbacks. Tarkenton gained 3,674 yards in 18 seasons. Cunningham has 3,437 yards in six seasons.

Coach Rich Kotite says: "We're moving forward. We're going to build on what we had here, we're going to add to that, and we're going to be stronger than ever."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Barnett	Bellamy	Kenny Jackson
LT	Darwin	Heller	Gray
LG	Schad	McKnight	E. Harmon
C	Alexander	Hudson	Tamburello
RG	Solt	Selby	McKnight
RT	Davis	Singletary	D. Smith
TE	Keith Jackson	Shuler	M. Johnson
WR	Williams	Harris	Bellamy
QB	Cunningham	McMahon	
RB	Byars	Sherman	Sanders
FB	Toney	Vick	Drummond

DEFENSE

LE	White	A. Harmon	Kaufusi
LT	Pitts	Golic	Chapura
RT	Brown	Golic	Chapura
RE	Simmons	Flores	A. Harmon
LLB	Joyner	Rose	Kowalkowski
MLB	Evans	Hager	Kowalkowski
RLB	Small	Thomas	Hager
LCB	B. Smith	Jenkins	O. Smith
RCB	Allen	O. Smith	Booty
SS	Waters	Campbell	Beavers
FS	Hopkins	Campbell	Booty

SPECIALISTS

K	Ruzek	Feagles	
P	Feagles	Teltschik	Cunningham
KR	Sanders	Bellamy	Harris
PR	Harris	Bellamy	Williams

(fifth). Both players started as rookies and combined for 73 receptions and 17 touchdowns.

Mike Bellamy, another 1990 rookie, was plagued by injuries all year and did not catch a pass. If Bellamy can come back, he, Barnett and Williams give the Eagles a trio of good, young receivers. Rod Harris is a capable fourth wide receiver who doubles as the team's top kick returner.

Keith Jackson sat out Philadelphia's first two games in a contract dispute last year. But when he plays, he's as good as any tight end in the league. Jackson is fast and agile, has excellent hands and has appeared in three straight Pro Bowls.

The backup tight end is Mickey Shuler, a smart, crafty veteran who also is a positive influence in the locker room.

LINEMEN—The Eagles' No. 1 off-season priority was to improve their line, which gave up 50 sacks in 1990. They think they did so by using their No. 1 draft pick on mammoth Tennessee tackle Antone Davis, a consensus All-America. Davis comes at a heavy price, however. Philadelphia gave up a 1992 first-round draft choice to move up 11 spots in the first round and grab him.

The 6-foot-4, 327-pound Davis has the potential to be a standout for many years. He is expected to displace five-year veteran Reggie Singletary at right tackle. Two other draft choices, guards Ron Selby (Auburn) and Eric Harmon (Clemson), are expected to push for playing time as well.

The Eagles' best veteran lineman is center David Alexander, who is trying to bounce back after post-season knee surgery. Left tackle Matt Darwin, who has missed most of the last two years with a bum knee, also is trying to regain his health. If Darwin can't answer the bell, Ron Heller, a player better suited for the right side, will be forced to play on the left.

Guards Ron Solt and Mike Schadt must avoid the nagging injuries that have hampered their careers. Solt, for whom the Eagles gave up a No. 1 draft pick, hasn't been close to his former All-Pro level since coming to Philadelphia in 1988.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—If the Eagles can avoid long contract holdouts and injuries, they should have one of the best defensive lines in the league.

Four of their top five linemen—Jerome Brown, Clyde Simmons, Mike Pitts and Mike Golic—became veteran free agents on February 1. A protracted holdout by Brown or Simmons could harm this unit.

Simmons is an underrated big-play specialist who has totaled 23 sacks over the last two seasons. Brown is a burly, boisterous player and one of

1991 PHILADELPHIA EAGLES ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL Exp.	College	How acq.	'90 Games GP/GS
Cunningham, Randall	6-4/203	3-27-63	7	UNLV	D2/85	16/16
Erickson, Craig	6-1/195	5-17-69	R	Miami (Fla.)	D5/91	—
McMahon, Jim	6-1/190	8-21-59	10	Brigham Young	FA/90	5/0
RUNNING BACKS						
Byars, Keith	6-1/238	10-14-63	6	Ohio State	D1/86	16/15
Drummond, Robert	6-1/205	6-21-67	3	Syracuse	D3a/89	4/0
Joseph, James	6-0/224	10-28-67	R	Auburn	D7/91	—
Sanders, Thomas	5-11/203	1-4-62	7	Texas A&M	FA/90	10/0
Sherman, Heath	6-0/190	3-27-67	3	Texas A&I	D6/89	14/5
Toney, Anthony	6-0/227	9-23-62	6	Texas A&M	D2a/86	15/11
Vick, Roger	6-3/235	8-11-64	5	Texas A&M	T-NYJ/90	14/0
Weatherspoon, Chuck	5-7/229	7-31-68	R	Houston	D9/91	—
RECEIVERS						
Barnett, Fred	6-0/203	6-17-66	2	Arkansas State	D3/90	16/11
Bellamy, Mike	6-0/195	6-28-66	2	Illinois	D2/90	6/0
Harris, Rod	5-10/183	11-14-66	3	Texas A&M	W-Dal/90	†11/0
Jackson, Keith (TE)	6-2/250	4-19-65	4	Oklahoma	D1/88	14/14
Jackson, Kenny	6-0/180	2-15-62	8	Penn State	FA/90	14/0
Quick, Mike	6-2/195	8-14-59	10	North Carolina State	D1/82	4/4
Shuler, Mickey (TE)	6-3/231	5-21-56	14	Penn State	FA/90	16/6
Williams, Calvin	5-11/181	3-3-67	2	Purdue	D5/90	16/14
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Alexander, David (C/T)	6-3/282	7-28-64	5	Tulsa	D5/87	16/16
Collie, Bruce (G)	6-6/275	6-27-62	7	Texas-Arlington	W-SF/90	12/2
Darwin, Matt (T)	6-4/275	3-11-63	5	Texas A&M	D4/86	2/2
Davis, Antone (T)	6-4/327	2-28-67	R	Tennessee	D1/91	—
Gray, Cecil (T)	6-4/264	2-16-68	2	North Carolina	D9/90	12/1
Harmon, Eric (G)	6-1/280	3-3-67	R	Clemson	D10/91	—
Heller, Ron (T)	6-6/280	8-25-62	8	Penn State	T-Sea/88	16/14
Hudson, John (G/C)	6-2/265	1-29-68	1	Auburn	D11a/90	0/0
McKnight, Dennis (C/G)	6-4/280	9-12-59	9	Drake (Ia.)	PlanB/91	*14/0
Schad, Mike (G)	6-5/290	10-2-63	4	Queens (Ontario)	PlanB/89	12/12
Selby, Rob (G/T)	6-3/291	10-11-67	R	Auburn	D3/91	—
Singletary, Reggie (T)	6-3/285	1-17-64	5	North Carolina State	FA/89	16/16
Smith, Daryle (T)	6-5/278	1-18-64	4	Tennessee	FA/90	3/0
Solt, Ron (G)	6-3/288	5-19-62	7	Maryland	T-Ind/88	15/15
Tamburello, Ben (C/G)	6-3/278	9-9-64	4	Auburn	D3/87	16/2
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Brown, Jerome (T)	6-2/295	2-4-65	5	Miami (Fla.)	D1/87	16/15
Chapura, Dick (T)	6-3/280	6-15-64	5	Missouri	FA/90	†10/0
Flores, Mike (E)	6-3/257	12-1-66	R	Louisville	D11/91	—
Golic, Mike (T)	6-5/275	12-12-62	6	Notre Dame	FA/87	16/13
Harmon, Andy (E)	6-4/264	4-6-69	R	Kent	D6/91	—
Kaufusi, Steve (E)	6-4/274	10-17-63	3	Brigham Young	D12/88	16/0
Pitts, Mike (T)	6-5/277	9-25-60	9	Alabama	T-Atl/87	4/3
Simmons, Clyde (E)	6-6/275	8-4-64	6	Western Carolina	D9/86	16/16
White, Reggie (E)	6-5/285	12-19-61	7	Tennessee	SupD1/84	16/16
LINEBACKERS						
Beavers, Darrell (S)	6-2/228	1-24-68	R	Morehead State	D12/91	—
Evans, Byron	6-2/235	2-23-64	5	Arizona	D4/87	16/16
Hager, Britt	6-1/222	2-20-66	3	Texas	D3b/89	16/1
Joyner, Seth	6-2/240	11-18-64	6	Texas-El Paso	D8/86	16/16
Kowalkowski, Scott	6-2/227	8-23-68	R	Notre Dame	D8/91	—
Moten, Ron	6-1/235	9-15-64	1	Florida	FA/90	IR
Rose, Ken	6-1/215	6-9-62	5	UNLV	FA/90	†15/0
Small, Jessie	6-3/239	11-30-66	3	Eastern Kentucky	D2/89	15/14
Thomas, William	6-2/219	8-13-68	R	Texas A&M	D4/91	—
DEFENSIVE BACKS						
Allen, Eric (CB)	5-10/188	11-22-65	4	Arizona State	D2/88	16/15
Booty, John (CB)	6-0/182	10-9-65	4	Texas Christian	PlanB/91	*13/1
Campbell, Jesse (S)	6-1/212	4-11-69	R	North Carolina State	D2/91	—
Hopkins, Wes (S)	6-1/215	9-26-61	8	Southern Methodist	D2a/83	15/12
Jenkins, Izel (CB)	5-10/191	5-27-64	4	North Carolina State	D11/88	15/4
Miano, Rich	6-1/200	9-3-62	6	Hawaii	FA/91	0/0
Smith, Ben	5-11/183	5-14-67	2	Georgia	D1/90	16/13
Smith, Otis (CB)	5-11/185	10-22-65	1	Missouri	FA/90	0/0
Waters, Andre (S)	5-11/199	3-10-62	8	Cheyney (Pa.)	FA/84	14/13
SPECIALISTS						
Feagles, Jeff (P)	6-0/198	3-7-66	4	Miami (Fla.)	W-NE/90	16/0
Ruzek, Roger (K)	6-1/195	12-17-60	5	Weber State	FA/89	16/0
Teltschik, John (P)	6-2/210	3-8-64	5	Texas	W-Chi/86	0/0
OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP						
Dave Baird, WR; David Bell, DB; Ken Benson, LB; Brad Boozer, P; Mike Constantatos, DL; Nick Cullen, WR; Ron Curry, LB; Brad Goebel, QB; Steven Grant, WR; Mike Hollis, CB; David Johnson, DB; Maurice Johnson, TE; Paul Kovell, TE; Don McPherson, QB; Chris Mitchell, DB; Cam Pepper, G; Lamonde Russell, WR; Rodney Scaife, CB; Joe Sweeley, WR; Brian Taitoan, T.						

OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP

Dave Baird, WR; David Bell, DB; Ken Benson, LB; Brad Boozer, P; Mike Constantatos, DL; Nick Cullen, WR; Ron Curry, LB; Brad Goebel, QB; Steven Grant, WR; Mike Hollis, CB; David Johnson, DB; Maurice Johnson, TE; Paul Kovell, TE; Don McPherson, QB; Chris Mitchell, DB; Cam Pepper, G; Lamonde Russell, WR; Rodney Scaife, CB; Joe Sweeley, WR; Brian Taitoan, T.

*Not with Eagles in 1990.

†Includes totals with both Eagles and another NFL team in 1990.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

DID YOU KNOW ...

... that running back Keith Byars completed all four of his pass attempts for 53 yards and four TDs in 1990? Byars, a lefthander, had a passing efficiency rating of 158.3—66.7 points higher than Randall Cunningham.

Continued

COACHES

Head coach: Rich Kotite.
Assistant coaches:
 Dave Atkins (special teams).
 Zeke Bratkowski (quarterbacks).
 Lew Carpenter (receivers).
 Bud Carson (defensive coordinator/secondary).
 Peter Giunta (defensive assistant).
 Dale Haupt (defensive line).
 Dan Neal (offensive line).
 Jim Vecchiarella (linebackers).
 Bill Walsh (offensive line).
 Jim Williams (strength and conditioning).
 Richard Wood (running backs).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1990 regular-season record: 10-6 (2nd in NFC East); 5-3 in division; 9-3 in conference; 6-2 at home; 4-4 on road.

1990 playoff record: Lost to Redskins, 20-6, in NFC wild-card game.

Kotite's regular-season record: First year as NFL head coach.

Team record last five years: 43-35-1 (.551, ranks 11th in league in that span).

1990 team rankings:	NFC	NFL
Total offense.....	2	3
Rushing offense.....	1	1
Passing offense.....	7	13
Scoring offense.....	1	3
Total defense.....	5	12
Rushing defense.....	1	1
Passing defense.....	12	25
Scoring defense.....	5	12
Takeaways.....	T10	T16
Giveaways.....	T3	T8
Turnover differential.....	4	8
Sacks.....	2	4
Sacks allowed.....	12	24

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

Stadium (capacity): Veterans Stadium (65,356).

Ticket information: 215-463-2500.

Flagship radio station: WIP, 610 AM.

Training site: West Chester University, West Chester, Pa.; 215-463-2500.

1991 SCHEDULE

Sept. 1—at Green Bay	12:00
Sept. 8—PHOENIX	1:00
Sept. 15—at Dallas	12:00
Sept. 22—PITTSBURGH	1:00
Sept. 30—at Washington (Mon.)	9:00
Oct. 6—at Tampa Bay	1:00
Oct. 13—NEW ORLEANS	1:00
Oct. 20—Open date	
Oct. 27—SAN FRANCISCO	1:00
Nov. 4—N.Y. GIANTS (Mon.)	9:00
Nov. 10—at Cleveland	1:00
Nov. 17—CINCINNATI	1:00
Nov. 24—at Phoenix	2:00
Dec. 2—at Houston (Mon.)	8:00
Dec. 8—at N.Y. Giants	1:00
Dec. 15—DALLAS	1:00
Dec. 22—WASHINGTON	4:00

All times local.

All games Sunday unless noted.

1990 RESULTS

Sept. 9—at N.Y. Giants	20-27
Sept. 16—PHOENIX	21-23
Sept. 23—at L.A. Rams	27-21
Sept. 30—INDIANAPOLIS	23-24
Oct. 7—Open date	
Oct. 15—MINNESOTA	32-24
Oct. 21—at Washington	7-13
Oct. 28—at Dallas	21-20
Nov. 4—NEW ENGLAND	48-20
Nov. 12—WASHINGTON	28-14
Nov. 18—at Atlanta	24-23
Nov. 25—N.Y. GIANTS	31-13
Dec. 2—at Buffalo	23-30
Dec. 9—at Miami (OT)	20-23
Dec. 16—GREEN BAY	31-0
Dec. 23—DALLAS	17-3
Dec. 29—at Phoenix	23-21

1990 LEADERS

Scoring (kicking): Roger Ruzek, 108 pts. (45/48 PATs, 21/29 FGs).

Scoring (touchdowns): Calvin Williams, 54 pts. (9 receiving).

Passing: Randall Cunningham, 3,466 yds. (465 att., 271 comp., 58.3%, 30 TDs, 13 int.).

Rushing: Randall Cunningham, 942 yds. (118 att., 8.0 avg., 5 TDs).

Receptions: Keith Byars, 81 (819 yds., 10.1 avg., 3 TDs).

Interceptions: Wes Hopkins, 5 (45 yds., 0 TDs).

Tackles: Seth Joyner, 132 (91 solo, 41 assisted).

Sacks: Reggie White, 14.

Punting: Jeff Feagles, 42.0 avg. (72 punts, 3,026 yds., 2 blocked).

Punt returns: Rod Harris, 7.6 avg. (16 att., 151 yds., 0 TDs).

Kickoff returns: Marvin Hargrove, 17.9 avg. (19 att., 341 yds., 0 TDs).

1990 FANTASY STATISTICS

Statistics included for current members of 1991 roster only.

Name	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING				Defensive TDs	Total TDs
	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300+ yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100+ yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100+ yd. games	18-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs		
Allen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1
Barnett	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	8
Byars	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	7
Cunningham	9	17	4	-	3	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35
Drummond	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Evans	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1
Kei. Jackson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Quick	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ruzek	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	4	1	45	-	-
Sanders	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Sherman	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Simmons	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1
Toney	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Vick	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Williams	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	9

* fumble recovery. * interception.

the top run-stuffers in football. But he needs to display more maturity and consistency and improve as a pass rusher.

Pitts, a solid pro, is coming off an injury-marred season. Golic is a quality reserve, and the Eagles have high hopes for sixth-round pick Andy Harmon, a pass-rushing specialist from Kent.

The one starter who is signed, sealed and delivered—seven-year veteran Reggie White—had 14 sacks a year ago and is coming off his fifth straight Pro Bowl appearance.

LINEBACKERS—The best of the bunch is Seth Joyner, an underrated outside performer who had a team-high 132 tackles and a career-high 7½ sacks last season.

Middle linebacker Byron Evans, an emotional, hard-hitting player, is strong against the run but weak against the pass. Britt Hager is a good backup and special-teams ace.

Right linebacker may be a problem area. Incumbent Jessie Small has great size, speed and strength but doesn't make many big plays. He is a converted defensive end, so the Eagles hope he'll improve with experience. Rookie William Thomas (Texas A&M) is expected to get a long look.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—Eric Allen and Ben Smith are a young, solid pair of cornerbacks. Allen was a Pro Bowl selection two years ago, while Smith, a 1990 No. 1 pick and former safety, found a home at cornerback midway through last season.

Veteran safeties Wes Hopkins and Andre Waters are both heavy hitters who lack great speed or range. They're also both 29 years old and will be challenged for playing time by second-round draft choice Jesse Campbell, a big hitter with good speed from North Carolina State. Izel Jenkins, a decent cover man, is the team's top nickel back.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Kotite wants a lot of improvement here. The Eagles do a good job kicking the football but need to do a better job covering the opposition's return men.

Roger Ruzek is a solid place-kicker. The former Dallas Cowboy made 21 of 29 field-goal attempts last year but needs to increase the distance on his kickoffs.

Jeff Feagles averaged 42 yards per punt last season as a replacement for John Teltschik, who was sidelined all of 1990 with a knee injury. Teltschik, the Eagles' regular punter from 1986 through '89, hopes to return this season.

The coverage squads should improve if Kotite follows through with his plan to use starting players (such as Joyner and Smith) on special teams. That was a no-no under Ryan. But, then again, so was winning playoff games.



Cards can't win, even with a 5th-place schedule

By LLOYD HERBERG
Arizona Republic

Sometimes, it seems, the Phoenix Cardinals can't win for losing. Take last season. Please.

For the second consecutive year, the Cardinals finished 5-11, and in 1990 that record landed them in the basement of the National Football Conference Eastern Division. According to NFL guidelines, a fifth-place finish one season results in a supposedly cushy fifth-place schedule the next.

Supposedly.

As luck would have it, the Minnesota Vikings and Denver Broncos both had bad seasons in 1990 and finished fifth in their respective divisions. The Los Angeles Rams were a desultory 5-11. As a result, those three teams are on the Cardinals' 1991 schedule. In addition, the San Francisco 49ers and the always-tough NFC East contingent of the New York Giants, Washington and Philadelphia are on the slate. All told, Phoenix will play the last five Super Bowl champions, a three-time Super Bowl runner-up (Denver) and a pair of perennial playoff participants (Minnesota, twice, and the Rams) this fall.

Thank God for fifth-place schedules.

In the draft, the Cardinals used their first five picks on defensive players, including first-round selection Eric Swann, a tackle who didn't play college football but toiled instead for a semipro team called the Bay State Titans.



Phoenix phenom: Johnny Johnson, a seventh-round draft pick, surprised many observers by gaining the most total yards among NFL rookies last year.

The choice of Swann was questioned in Phoenix, as was the lucrative contract the team lavished on defensive end Jeff Faulkner, an unproven Plan B free agent.

All the second-guessing rankles General Manager Larry Wilson.

"The last time I looked at our record, we were 5-11 the last two years," Wilson said. "I'm here trying to build a football team, and that means bringing people in who can help. I'm going to continue to bring in Jeff Faulkners because I want to win, and win quickly."

But if players like Faulkner don't come through, Wilson and the Cardinals probably can count on another fifth-place schedule in 1992.

COACHING

Joe Bugel enters his second year as coach and already wields far more influence than his predecessor, Gene Stallings. Organizational decisions are made jointly by Wilson, Bugel and Erik Widmark, the club's pro personnel director.

Fritz Shurmur, fired by the Rams after last season, replaces Joe Pascale as defensive coordinator, a move that allows Pascale to return to coaching the linebackers. Shurmur favors a bend-but-don't-break defense and a 3-4 alignment.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—Timm Rosenbach took every snap last year and will be the starter again in 1991.

Rosenbach lacks a strong arm and is inconsistent throwing the deep pass, but he does put a nice touch on both his short and intermediate throws. He also is a gutsy player who is genuinely liked by his teammates.

In 1990, Rosenbach rushed for more yards (470) than any quarterback except Philadelphia's Randall Cunningham. And with the league's softening of the in-the-grasp rule in '91, Rosenbach should be even more of an offensive threat. He runs the quarterback-draw play to perfection.

RUNNING BACKS—What a difference a year makes. Heading into the 1990 season, the running game was considered a major weakness. Now there's so much depth and talent that Bugel is tinkering with a two-back set so he can get Johnny Johnson and Anthony Thompson on the field at the same time.

Johnson was a first-round talent who lasted until the seventh round of the '90 draft because of perceived disciplinary problems. He went on to amass more total yards (1,167) and the second-most rushing yards (926) among 1990 NFL rookies and played in the Pro Bowl. Johnson's upright running style reminds many observers of a young Chuck Muncie.

Johnson got his shot last year after Thompson, the Cardinals' top draft choice, was a contract holdout in training camp. Thompson finished with only

AT A
GLANCE

Strengths: An expanded offensive attack led by two premier young running backs in Johnny Johnson and Anthony Thompson. They'll work behind a solid, veteran line that should enable the Cards to excel in ball-control situations. Timm Rosenbach is one of the league's most mobile quarterbacks and works with a good receiving corps. The Phoenix special teams should be special.

Weaknesses: An inexperienced defensive line and a suspect secondary are not a good combination. Lack of depth on the offensive line is a concern. If Rosenbach goes down, Tom Tupa is no Jeff Hostetler.

Keys to success: Rookie defensive linemen Eric Swann, Mike Jones and Vance Hammond and Plan B acquisition Jeff Faulkner must toughen the defense and put heat on opposing quarterbacks. One of two rookie cornerbacks, Aeneas Williams or Dexter Davis, must beat out incumbent Cedric Mack.

Sure sign of trouble: If the Cardinals don't win at least one of their first three contests—away games against the Rams, Eagles and Redskins.

That's a fact: Swann is the first player since 1946 to be selected in the first round of an NFL draft who had not played college football.

Coach Joe Bugel says: "I definitely feel we'll be very competitive just with the people we've added to the football team. We feel very, very pleased with what we've done. We want to put a winner on the field now, not build for the future, and we certainly feel we're on the right path."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Proehl	D. Hill	Lomack
LT	Sharpe	V. Smith	Wolf
LG	Kennard	Wolf	Kauahi
C	Lewis	Kauahi	Kennard
RG	L. Smith	Wolf	Kauahi
RT	Robbins	Wolf	V. Smith
TE	Reeves	Jorden	
WR	E. Jones	D. Hill	Jackson
QB	Rosenbach	Tupa	
RB	Thompson	Johnson	Flagler
HB	Johnson	Woffley	Amsler

DEFENSE

LE	Faulkner	Swann	M. Jones
NT	Wahler	Hammond	
RE	M. Jones	Manley	Swann
LILB	Nunn	Braxton	Osborne
LILB	E. Hill	Jax	Stowe
RILB	Bell	Jax	Stowe
ROLB	Harvey	Osborne	Braxton
LCB	D. Davis	Mack	Turner
RCB	Taylor	Turner	A. Williams
SS	McDonald	Zordich	LaDuke
FS	Young	Turner	LaDuke

SPECIALISTS

K	G. Davis	Camarillo
P	Camarillo	Tupa
KR	Lomack	Flagler
PR	Lomack	Proehl

Continued

COACHES

Head coach: Joe Bugel.
Assistant coaches:
 Ted Cottrell (defensive line).
 Bobby Hammond (running backs).
 Jim Johnson (defensive secondary).
 Tom Loyat (offensive line).
 Mike Murphy (inside linebackers/quality control).
 Joe Pascale (outside linebackers).
 Ted Plumb (receivers).
 Jerry Rhome (offensive coordinator).
 Pete Rodriguez (special teams).
 Bob Rogucki (strength and conditioning).
 Fritz Shurmur (defensive coordinator).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1990 regular-season record: 5-11 (5th in NFC East); 2-6 in division; 3-9 in conference; 3-5 at home; 2-6 on road.

1990 playoff record: None.

Bugel's regular-season record: 10-22 in two seasons with Cardinals.

Bugel's postseason record: None.

Team record last five years: 28-50-1 (.361, ranks 24th in league in that span).

1990 team rankings:	NFC	NFL
Total offense.....	10	18
Rushing offense.....	6	12
Passing offense.....	10	19
Scoring offense.....	12	24
Total defense.....	9	18
Rushing defense.....	13	26
Passing defense.....	4	8
Scoring defense.....	12	24
Takeaways.....	T13	T22
Giveaways.....	7	T13
Turnover differential.....	12	22
Sacks.....	T8	T15
Sacks allowed.....	T8	T19

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

Stadium (capacity): Sun Devil Stadium (74,724).

Ticket information: 602-379-0102.

Flagship radio station: KTAR, 620 AM.

Training site: Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Ariz.; 602-379-0101.

1991 SCHEDULE

Sept. 1—at L.A. Rams	1:00
Sept. 8—at Philadelphia	1:00
Sept. 15—at Washington	1:00
Sept. 22—DALLAS	5:00
Sept. 29—NEW ENGLAND	1:00
Oct. 6—at N.Y. Giants	4:00
Oct. 13—at Minnesota	12:00
Oct. 20—ATLANTA	1:00
Oct. 27—MINNESOTA	2:00
Nov. 3—at Dallas	12:00
Nov. 10—N.Y. GIANTS	2:00
Nov. 17—at San Francisco	1:00
Nov. 24—PHILADELPHIA	2:00
Dec. 1—Open date	
Dec. 8—WASHINGTON	2:00
Dec. 15—at Denver	2:00
Dec. 22—NEW ORLEANS	2:00

All times local.

All games Sunday unless noted.

1990 RESULTS

Sept. 9—at Washington	0-31
Sept. 16—at Philadelphia	23-21
Sept. 23—at New Orleans	7-28
Sept. 30—WASHINGTON	10-38
Oct. 7—Open date	
Oct. 14—DALLAS	20-3
Oct. 21—at N.Y. Giants	19-20
Oct. 28—CHICAGO	21-31
Nov. 4—at Miami	3-23
Nov. 11—at Buffalo	14-45
Nov. 18—GREEN BAY	21-24
Nov. 25—NEW ENGLAND	34-14
Dec. 2—INDIANAPOLIS	20-17
Dec. 9—at Atlanta	24-13
Dec. 16—at Dallas	10-41
Dec. 23—N.Y. GIANTS	21-24
Dec. 29—PHILADELPHIA	21-23

1990 LEADERS

Scoring (kicking): Al Del Greco, 82 pts. (31/31 PATs, 17/27 FGs).
Scoring (touchdowns): Johnny Johnson, 30 pts. (5 rushing).
Passing: Timm Rosenbach, 3,098 yds. (437 att., 237 comp., 54.2%, 16 TDs, 17 int.).
Rushing: Johnny Johnson, 926 yds. (234 att., 4.0 avg., 5 TDs).
Receptions: Ricky Proehl, 56 (802 yds., 14.3 avg., 4 TDs).
Interceptions: Tim McDonald, 4 (63 yds., 0 TDs).
Tackles: Tim McDonald, 132 (101 solo, 31 assisted).
Sacks: Ken Harvey, 10 (53 yds.).
Punting: Rich Camarillo, 42.8 avg. (67 punts, 2,865 yds., 0 blocked).
Punt returns: Vai Sikahema, 8.5 avg. (36 att., 306 yds., 0 TDs).
Kickoff returns: Vai Sikahema, 20.1 avg. (27 att., 544 yds., 0 TDs).

1990 FANTASY STATISTICS

Statistics included for current members of 1991 roster only.

Name	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING				Defensive TDs	Total TDs
	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	18-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs		
G. Davis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	6	2	40	-	-
Del Greco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	3	2	31	-	-
Flagler	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Johnson	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
E. Jones	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Proehl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	4
Rosenbach	3	9	4	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
Sharpe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Thompson	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Turner	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2*	2

* interception.

390 yards rushing but averaged 102 during a three-game stretch late in the year.

Ron Wolfley is the Cardinals' lone fullback and best blocker.

RECEIVERS—This figures to be a strength. One starter will be Ernie Jones, a fourth-year player who replaced longtime starter J.T. Smith midway through last season. Smith, now 35, was left unprotected in Plan B and was not invited back.

Also gone is 13-year veteran Roy Green, who was traded to Cleveland in June for an undisclosed draft pick. Green, the Cardinals' all-time leader in passes caught and receiving yardage, clearly had lost a step in recent years.

His spot will be taken by Ricky Proehl, a sure-handed receiver who last season became the first rookie to lead the Cardinals in receptions (56) since 1950. Proehl, who reminds some observers of a young Steve Largent, is a fearless player who runs good routes.

Tight end Walter Reeves is a good blocker but not much of a receiving threat.

LINEMEN—Phoenix was fortunate last season as no starting lineman missed time due to injury. But depth is a concern, especially at tackle.

Luis Sharpe and Tootie Robbins are both entering their 10th seasons as the starting tackles, and each player must be re-signed. Negotiations are expected to be difficult, and holdouts would not be surprising. Sharpe still is one of the league's premier pass protectors and was justifiably upset when he wasn't elected to the Pro Bowl for the fourth year in a row. Robbins had his best season in years in 1990 but could use his 322-pound body to better advantage.

Former center Derek Kennard easily made the transition to left guard. His short arms hurt him on passing downs, but he remains a force on running plays. Right guard Lance Smith is an overachiever who works well alongside Robbins.

Center Bill Lewis, a Plan B acquisition a year ago, did a good job anchoring the line.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—The Cardinals could have applied for federal disaster relief for this area in 1990—and gotten it. Phoenix yielded 144.9 yards rushing per game and protected only three linemen (Jim Wahler, Rod Saddler and Dexter Manley) in Plan B.

Quite simply, the Phoenix linemen were pushed around at will last season. Management did its best to solve the problem by signing Faulkner (305 pounds) and using the sixth pick in the draft on the 311-pound Swann, a player the coaching staff would prefer to bring along slowly. The Cards drafted 274-pound Mike Jones of North Carolina State, 300-pound Vance Hammond of Clemson and 261-pound Scott Evans of Oklahoma in an effort to bulk up their line.

Wahler, who was worn out by the end of last season, added some bulk in the off-season and probably will retain his starting nose tackle job. Saddler, entering his fifth year, always has been an underachiever, and the coaching staff may not give him many more chances. Manley didn't have a tackle or a sack in four games following his reinstatement after a one-year suspension for substance abuse.

LINEBACKERS—Change is the order of the day here. The biggest is Freddie Joe Nunn's move from defensive end, where he has played the last four years, to outside linebacker. Anthony Bell, who has started on the outside the last four seasons, is being moved inside—and possibly out of the starting lineup. Bell was the fifth pick of the 1986 draft but has yet to live up to that lofty status.

The Cards hope that Nunn, who broke into the league as a linebacker in 1985, can develop into a Charles Haley-type pass rusher.

Outside starter Ken Harvey led the Cards with 10 sacks last season. The coaches would prefer Harvey to put on a little weight (he weighs 228), but he's an impact player despite his size.

Eric Hill, a first-round pick in 1989, has been moved around the last two seasons and should be a starter inside. The other inside job may go to Garth Jax, an overachiever who probably is best suited for a backup role.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—The Cardinals drafted three cornerbacks in an effort to shore up one of their weakest links. Third-round pick Aeneas Williams (Southern) and fourth-rounder Dexter Davis (Clemson) are expected to challenge six-year starter Cedric Mack. Mack has lost a step, but the Cards hope he responds to the challenge.

Jay Taylor doesn't have the size or speed that coaches look for in a cornerback, but he'll keep his starting job until the team can find someone better.

The Cards want more production from free safety Lonnie Young, who has intercepted just five passes in the last five seasons. He'll be challenged by backup Marcus Turner. Strong safety Tim McDonald was bothered by a sore left wrist most of last year but still led the team in interceptions (four) and tackles (132) for the second straight season.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Greg Davis, who finished eighth in the league in scoring last year with Atlanta, was acquired through Plan B and likely will be the place-kicker. The Falcons soured on Davis because of his inability to kick field goals from 40 or more yards (eight for 18), but the Cards like the fact that 24 of his 73 kickoffs last season went for touchbacks.

Rich Camarillo, who returns for the third season with Phoenix, is one of the league's best punters (42.8-yard average last year).



1991 PHOENIX CARDINALS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	HI./WI.	Born	NFL Exp.	College	How acq.	'90 Games GP/GS
Bridewell, Jeff	6-4/214	5-13-67	R	UC Davis	D12/91	—
Rosenbach, Timm	6-2/215	10-27-66	3	Washington State	SupD1/89	16/16
Tupa, Tom (P)	6-4/225	2-6-66	4	Ohio State	D3/88	15/0
RUNNING BACKS						
Amsler, Greg	6-2/236	12-19-67	R	Tennessee	D8/91	—
Brown, Ivory Lee	6-2/243	8-17-69	R	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	D7/91	—
Centers, Larry	5-11/203	6-1-68	2	Stephen F. Austin State	D5/90	6/0
Flagler, Terrence	6-0/200	9-24-64	5	Clemson	FA/90	13/0
Johnson, Johnny	6-2/216	6-11-68	2	San Jose State	D7/90	14/14
Thompson, Anthony	5-11/207	4-8-67	2	Indiana	D2/90	13/3
Woffley, Ron	6-0/222	10-14-62	7	West Virginia	D4/85	13/2
RECEIVERS						
Edwards, Anthony	5-11/185	5-26-66	3	New Mexico Highlands	FA/91	*5/0
Evans, Jerry (TE)	6-4/255	9-28-68	R	Toledo	D8a/91	—
Field, Amod	5-11/181	10-11-67	1	Montclair State (N.J.)	FA/90	0/0
Flutie, Darren	5-10/187	11-18-66	3	Boston College	FA/90	IR
Hill, Derek	6-1/193	11-4-67	3	Arizona	PlanB/91	*16/11
Holmes, Don	5-10/182	4-1-61	6	Mesa State (Colo.)	W-Ind/86	6/0
Jackson, John	5-10/175	1-2-67	2	Southern California	FA/90	9/0
Jones, Ernie	5-11/196	12-15-64	4	Indiana	D7/88	15/8
Jordan, Tim (TE)	6-2/220	10-30-66	2	Indiana	FA/89	16/11
Little, David (TE)	6-2/226	4-18-61	8	Middle Tennessee State	FA/90	11/0
Lomack, Tony	5-8/180	4-27-68	2	Florida	FA/91	*3/0
Proehl, Ricky	5-10/185	3-7-68	2	Wake Forest	D3/90	16/2
Reeves, Walter (TE)	6-4/262	12-15-65	3	Auburn	D2/89	16/16
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Kauahi, Kani (C)	6-2/274	9-6-59	9	Hawaii	PlanB/89	15/0
Kennard, Derek (G)	6-3/319	9-9-62	6	Nevada	SupD2/84	16/16
Lewis, Bill (C)	6-7/278	7-12-63	6	Nebraska	PlanB/90	16/16
Robbins, Tootle (T)	6-5/322	6-2-58	10	East Carolina	D4/82	16/16
Sharpe, Luis (T)	6-4/290	6-16-60	10	UCLA	D1/82	16/16
Smith, Lance (G)	6-2/285	11-1-63	7	Louisiana State	D3/85	16/16
Smith, Vernice (G/T)	6-2/289	10-24-65	2	Florida A&M	FA/89	11/0
Vega, Ed (T)	6-6/340	11-5-67	R	Memphis State	D6/91	—
Walker, Jeff (G/T)	6-4/286	1-22-63	4	Memphis State	PlanB/90	IR
Williams, Willie (T)	6-6/296	8-6-67	1	Louisiana State	SupD9/90	0/0
Wolf, Joe (T)	6-5/283	12-28-66	3	Boston College	D1b/89	15/0
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Clasby, Bob (NT)	6-5/276	9-28-60	5	Notre Dame	FA/86	1/1
Evans, Scott (E)	6-3/261	3-29-68	R	Oklahoma	D8b/91	—
Faulkner, Jeff (E)	6-3/305	4-4-64	2	Southern (La.)	PlanB/91	*7/0
Hammond, Vance (T)	6-6/300	12-4-67	R	Clemson	D5/91	—
Jones, Mike	6-3/274	8-25-69	R	North Carolina State	D2/91	—
Manley, Dexter (E)	6-3/257	2-2-59	11	Oklahoma State	W-Was/90	4/0
Patterson, Craig (NT)	6-5/310	7-18-64	2	Brigham Young	FA/90	0/0
Saddler, Rod (E)	6-5/280	9-26-65	5	Texas A&M	D4/87	16/15
Swann, Eric	6-4/311	8-16-70	R	None	D1/91	—
Wahler, Jim (NT)	6-4/276	7-29-66	3	UCLA	D4/89	16/16
LINEBACKERS						
Bell, Anthony	6-3/235	7-2-64	6	Michigan State	D1/86	16/16
Braxton, David	6-1/232	5-26-65	3	Wake Forest	FA/90	*12/0
Coleman, Sidney	6-2/250	1-14-64	4	Southern Mississippi	PlanB/91	*16/0
Harvey, Ken	6-2/228	5-6-65	4	California	D1/88	16/16
Hill, Eric	6-1/251	11-14-66	3	Louisiana State	D1/89	16/16
Jax, Garth	6-2/236	9-16-63	6	Florida State	PlanB/89	16/12
Nunn, Freddie Joe	6-4/250	4-9-62	6	Mississippi	D1/85	16/16
Osborne, Eldonta	6-0/226	8-12-67	2	Louisiana Tech	FA/90	12/0
Stowe, Tyrone	6-1/236	5-30-65	5	Rutgers	PlanB/91	*16/0
DEFENSIVE BACKS						
Anderson, Herbie (CB)	5-10/183	11-19-68	R	Texas A&I	D10/91	—
Davis, Dexter (CB)	5-9/175	3-20-70	R	Clemson	D4/91	—
LaDuke, Nathan (S)	5-10/192	10-8-68	R	Arizona State	D11/91	—
Lofton, Steve (CB)	5-9/180	11-26-68	R	Texas A&M	FA/91	—
Lynch, Lorenzo (CB)	5-9/200	4-6-63	5	Sacramento (Calif.) State	PlanB/90	16/0
Mack, Cedric (CB)	6-0/185	9-14-60	9	Baylor	D2/83	16/16
McDonald, Tim (S)	6-2/209	1-6-65	5	Southern California	D2/87	16/16
Taylor, Jay (CB)	5-9/175	11-8-67	3	San Jose State	D6/89	16/16
Turner, Marcus	6-0/187	1-13-66	3	UCLA	W-Den/89	16/1
Williams, Aeneas (CB)	5-10/187	1-29-69	R	Southern (La.)	D3/91	—
Young, Lonnie (S)	6-1/192	7-18-63	7	Michigan State	D12/85	16/16
Zordich, Mike (S)	5-11/200	10-12-63	5	Penn State	PlanB/89	16/0
SPECIALISTS						
Camarillo, Rich (P)	5-11/193	11-29-59	11	Washington	FA/89	16/0
Davis, Greg (K)	5-11/197	10-29-65	5	The Citadel	PlanB/91	*16/0
Del Greco, Al (K)	5-10/195	3-2-62	8	Auburn	FA/87	16/0
OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP						
Eddie Brown, WR; Donn Grimm, LB; James Harper, G; Manny Hazard, WR; Al Jacevicius, OL; Craig Kupp, QB; Mike Nord, T; Brent Nyberg, WR; Kenyatta Rush, DE; Chris Williams, DL; Willie Wright, LB.						

*Not with Cardinals in 1990.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

DID YOU KNOW ...

... that it has been almost a decade since the Cardinals last shut out an opponent? They blanked the Buffalo Bills, 24-0, on November 15, 1981.

Retooled Redskins are ready for the NFL's elite

By RICHARD JUSTICE
Washington Post

The 1990 season was a good-news, bad-news affair for the Washington Redskins. The good news was that they earned a playoff berth for the first time in three years, won a post-season game and retooled a defense that at times was dominating. The bad news was that they still ranked below the National Football League's elite teams.

The Redskins were pounded, 28-10, by the San Francisco 49ers in their second playoff game and were a combined 0-4 in games against the 49ers and New York Giants. In fact, the Giants have beaten Washington in nine of their last 10 non-strike meetings. And until the Redskins find a way to handle their nemesis from the north, all future playoff expeditions will likely come via the wild-card route.

"That's got to be our goal—to win the NFC East," Redskins Coach Joe Gibbs said. "It's hard to get back to the Super Bowl without winning your division because getting in as a wild card puts you on the road for too many tough games."

The Redskins haven't been to the Super Bowl since the 1987 season, but Gibbs and his staff like the team they've assembled. Washington's defense is young and talented, and its offensive line is still the envy of many NFL teams. In addition, the Redskins have three outstanding wide receivers



Little big man: Diminutive Gary Clark earned his third Pro Bowl trip last year after grabbing 75 passes for 1,112 yards.

in Art Monk, Gary Clark and Ricky Sanders. Running back Earnest Byner is coming off his first Pro Bowl appearance and best season ever.

In a bizarre twist, Washington even had a first-round pick in last spring's draft. It was the first time since 1983 and only the fourth time since 1968 that the Redskins actually selected a player in that round. Their choice: Michigan State defensive tackle Bobby Wilson. Their only other No. 1 picks of the past 23 years—Darrell Green, Art Monk and Mark May—have eight Pro Bowl appearances among them.

COACHING

Gibbs is one of the best-organized and hardest-working coaches in the NFL. He has compiled a .673 winning percentage in his 10 seasons with the Redskins, and his 113 victories rank fourth among active coaches. Gibbs has led Washington to the playoffs six times and to the Super Bowl three times, winning twice. His teams play their best when it counts most: The Redskins are 28-9 in December and 12-4 in the playoffs since Gibbs took over in 1981.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—This position has haunted the Redskins ever since that gruesome night in 1985 when Lawrence Taylor broke Joe Theismann's leg. Mark Rypien, who missed six games in '90 with a knee injury, is No. 1 on the depth chart entering camp.

Rypien has been somewhat of an enigma ever since the Redskins drafted him in 1986. In some games he's terrific, such as when he threw three touchdown passes against Miami last December. At other times he's horrible, such as when he threw a last-minute interception that was returned 25 yards for a touchdown in a 35-28 loss at Indianapolis. That loss in Week 15 wound up costing the Redskins the home-field advantage in the playoffs.

Although Rypien's passing statistics pale in comparison to some other quarterbacks (he was only the 15th-highest-rated passer in 1990), the Redskins just win, baby, when he starts. Washington has won 14 of its last 19 games with Rypien at the controls.

The backup again should be Stan Humphries, who dazzled the coaching staff when he completed 20 of 25 passes for 257 yards and two touchdowns in his first start against Phoenix last year. The reviews were somewhat less than rave, however, when he threw three interceptions against the Giants in his next start.

Veteran Jeff Rutledge and second-year man Cary Conklin will compete for the No. 3 quarterback spot.

RUNNING BACKS—The Redskins' offense was at its best late last year when Gibbs eschewed the pass in favor of the run. Byner, who finished with a career-

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: The Redskins have one of the league's best offensive lines, perhaps its best trio of wide receivers and a staff of defensive coaches who know how to put the right people in the right places at the right times.

Weaknesses: Three quarterbacks started for Washington last season. Inconsistent, oft-injured Mark Rypien is probably the best of the group, and the Redskins probably can't return to the Super Bowl unless Rypien, Stan Humphries or someone else clearly establishes himself as the No. 1 signal-caller.

Keys to success: Rypien must win the No. 1 job and stay injury-free all year. The running game must be devastating for the entire season—not just half of it.

Sure sign of trouble: If cornerback Darrell Green gets hurt. Green is perhaps the best one-on-one defender in the NFC and the one player Washington can least afford to lose.

That's a fact: Earnest Byner rushed for more than 100 yards five times in a six-week stretch when the Redskins clinched a 1990 playoff spot.

Coach Joe Gibbs says: "Everyone got a pretty good read on where we are as a team last season. We got a good measure of ourselves against the top teams—San Francisco and New York—and we weren't able to beat them. We've got to try and take that next step up."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Sanders	Hobbs	Stanley
WR	Clark	Howard	McCardell
LT	Lachey	Elewonibi	
LG	Jacoby	Grimm	
C	Bostic	McKenzie	
RG	Schlereth	Adickes	
RT	Simmons	Brown	
TE	Warren	J. Johnson	Middleton
WR	Monk		
QB	Rypien	Humphries	Rutledge
RB	Byner	Riggs	Mitchell

DEFENSE

LE	Mann		
LT	Williams	Geathers	Rocker
RT	T. Johnson	Grant	Wilson
RE	Koch	Stokes	
LLB	Collins	Caldwell	
MLB	Millen	Gouveia	Leverenz
RLB	Marshall	Coleman	Caldwell
LCB	Mayhew	A.J. Johnson	Spencer
RCB	Green	S. Johnson	Mays
SS	Walton	Vaughn	Copeland
FS	Edwards	Hoage	Vaughn

SPECIALISTS

K	Lohmiller		
P	Goodburn	Shale	
KR	Howard	Mitchell	Hobbs
PR	Stanley	Howard	Mitchell

high 1,219 yards rushing, averaged 26 carries and 110 yards in Washington's final seven games.

Gerald Riggs was terrific when healthy, but for the second straight year, it wasn't often enough. Six games were lost to injury, and the 30-year-old Riggs rushed for only 475 yards.

Behind Byner and Riggs are three young players who may be called upon to produce early. Brian Mitchell played brilliantly at times as a rookie last year. John Settle, who rushed for 1,024 yards with Atlanta three years ago, was acquired via Plan B. The Redskins drafted Southern Cal tailback Ricky Ervins in the third round.

RECEIVERS—Clark earned his third Pro Bowl trip after finishing fifth in the league with 75 receptions and fourth in yards with 1,112. Monk continued his run toward the Hall of Fame by becoming the third receiver ever to catch 700 passes. He needs just 21 to pass second-place Charlie Joiner and is 89 catches behind Steve Largent. Of the Big Three, Sanders had the poorest year. His reception total dropped from 80 in 1989 to 56 last year.

Don Warren should retain his starting tight end spot.

LINEMEN—Some of these guys are oldies, but they're still goodies.

Center Jeff Bostic and guards Russ Grimm and Joe Jacoby are all that remain from the original Hogs after May's departure to San Diego via Plan B. Bostic and Jacoby again will be starters, while Grimm figures to be a reserve in what he has said will be his final season.

The Redskins believe Jim Lachey and Ed Simmons are the best tackle tandem in the NFL. Jacoby, a four-time Pro Bowl tackle, played well at left guard early last year before a knee injury to Simmons forced him back to his old position. The Redskins want Jacoby at guard alongside Lachey this year to give Washington a nearly impenetrable left side. Mark Schlereth will be the right guard. Raleigh McKenzie, Ray Brown and Mark Adickes all will see significant action as reserves.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—In less than one year, the Redskins have transformed this unit from a weakness into a strength. General Manager Charley Casserly acquired tackles Eric Williams and Tim Johnson in trades with Detroit and Pittsburgh, respectively, last year and then used his No. 1 draft pick on Wilson.

Defensive coordinator Richie Petitbon plans to use a rotating system of seven or eight linemen to keep everyone fresh. Williams, Johnson, Wilson, James Geathers and Darryl Grant figure to divvy up the time at tackle, while Charles Mann, Markus Koch and Fred Stokes handle the end spots.

LINEBACKERS—Petitbon won't hesitate to substitute in this area, either. The Redskins will plug three players

1991 WASHINGTON REDSKINS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL Exp.	College	How acq.	'90 Games GP/GS
Conklin, Cary	6-4/215	2-29-68	1	Washington	D4/90	0/0
Humphries, Stan	6-2/223	4-14-65	3	Northeast Louisiana	D6/88	7/5
Rutledge, Jeff	6-1/195	1-22-57	13	Alabama	PlanB/90	10/1
Rypien, Mark	6-4/234	10-2-62	5	Washington State	D6/86	10/10
RUNNING BACKS						
Byner, Earnest	5-10/215	9-15-62	8	East Carolina	T-Cle/89	16/16
Ervins, Ricky	5-7/200	12-7-68	R	Southern California	D3/91	—
Mitchell, Brian	5-10/195	8-18-68	2	Southwestern Louisiana	D5/90	15/0
Riggs, Gerald	6-1/232	11-6-60	10	Arizona State	T-Atl/89	10/0
Settle, John	5-9/210	6-2-65	5	Appalachian State	PlanB/91	*6/0
RECEIVERS						
Brandes, John (TE)	6-2/250	4-2-64	5	Cameron (Okla.)	PlanB/90	16/0
Cash, Keith (TE)	6-4/215	8-7-69	R	Texas	D7/91	—
Clark, Gary	5-9/173	5-1-62	7	James Madison	FA/85	16/16
Hobbs, Stephen	5-11/195	11-14-65	2	North Alabama	PlanB/89	7/0
Howard, Joe	5-8/170	12-21-62	4	Notre Dame	FA/89	15/0
Johnson, Jimmie (TE)	6-2/246	10-6-66	3	Howard	D12a/89	16/5
McCardell, Keenan	6-1/185	1-6-70	R	UNLV	D12/91	—
Middleton, Ron (TE)	6-2/255	7-17-65	6	Auburn	PlanB/90	16/5
Monk, Art	6-3/209	12-5-57	12	Syracuse	D1/80	16/16
Ransom, Dennis (TE)	6-3/248	10-14-67	R	Texas A&M	D6/91	—
Sanders, Ricky	5-11/180	8-30-62	6	Southwest Texas State	T-NE/86	16/6
Stanley, Walter	5-9/180	11-5-62	7	Mesa State (Colo.)	PlanB/90	9/1
Warren, Don (TE)	6-4/242	5-5-56	13	San Diego State	D4/79	16/15
Whisenhunt, Ken (TE)	6-3/240	2-28-62	5	Georgia Tech	PlanB/89	2/0
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Adickes, Mark (G)	6-4/275	4-22-61	6	Baylor	PlanB/90	8/1
Bostic, Jeff (C)	6-2/260	9-18-58	12	Clemson	FA/80	16/16
Brown, Ray (T)	6-5/280	12-12-62	6	Arkansas State	FA/81	0/0
Elewonihi, Mo (T)	6-4/282	12-16-65	1	Brigham Young	D3/90	IR
Grimm, Russ (G)	6-3/275	5-2-59	11	Pittsburgh	D3/81	15/11
Jacoby, Joe (G)	6-7/310	7-6-59	11	Louisville	PlanB/89	16/6
Lachey, Jim (T)	6-6/290	6-4-63	7	Ohio State	T-Rai/88	16/16
McKenzie, Raleigh (C/G)	6-2/270	2-8-63	7	Tennessee	D11/85	16/12
Schlereth, Mark (G)	6-3/285	1-25-66	3	Idaho	D10/89	12/7
Simmons, Ed (T)	6-5/300	12-31-63	6	Eastern Washington	D6a/87	13/11
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Geathers, James (T)	6-7/290	6-26-60	7	Wichita State	PlanB/90	9/1
Grant, Darryl (T)	6-1/275	11-22-59	11	Rice	D9/81	16/15
Johnson, Tim (T)	6-3/261	1-29-65	5	Penn State	T-Pit/90	16/2
Koch, Markus (E)	6-5/275	2-13-63	6	Boise State	D2a/85	13/13
Mann, Charles (E)	6-6/270	4-12-61	9	Nevada	D3/83	15/15
Rocker, Tracy (T)	6-3/288	4-9-66	3	Auburn	D3/89	8/7
Stokes, Fred (E)	6-3/262	3-14-64	5	Georgia Southern	PlanB/89	16/3
Williams, Eric (T)	6-4/286	2-24-62	8	Washington State	T-Det/90	13/8
Wilson, Bobby (T)	6-2/276	3-4-68	R	Michigan State	D1/91	—
LINEBACKERS						
Caldwell, Ravin	6-3/229	8-4-63	5	Arkansas	D5/86	16/0
Coleman, Monte	6-2/230	11-4-57	13	Central Arkansas	D11/79	15/0
Collins, Andre	6-1/230	5-4-68	2	Penn State	D2/90	16/16
Gouveia, Kurt	6-1/227	9-14-64	5	Brigham Young	D8/86	16/7
Leverenz, Jon	6-2/230	8-20-67	1	Minnesota	D11/90	IR
Marshall, Wilber	6-1/230	4-18-62	8	Florida	FA/88	16/15
Millen, Matt	6-2/245	3-12-58	12	Penn State	PlanB/91	*16/16
DEFENSIVE BACKS						
Bell, Charles (CB)	5-10/170	5-15-68	R	Baylor	D9/91	—
Copeland, Danny (S)	6-2/210	1-24-66	3	Eastern Kentucky	PlanB/91	*14/0
Edwards, Brad (S)	6-2/196	3-22-66	4	South Carolina	PlanB/90	16/1
Green, Darrell (CB)	5-8/170	2-15-60	9	Texas A&I	D1/83	16/16
Gulledge, David	6-1/203	10-26-67	R	Jacksonville (Ala.) State	D11/91	—
Hoage, Terry (S)	6-2/201	4-11-62	8	Georgia	PlanB/91	*16/3
Johnson, A.J. (CB)	5-8/176	6-22-67	3	Southwest Texas State	D6/89	5/0
Johnson, Sidney (CB)	5-9/175	3-7-65	3	California	FA/90	10/1
Mayhew, Martin (CB)	5-8/172	10-8-65	3	Florida State	PlanB/89	16/15
Mays, Alvoid (CB)	5-9/180	7-10-66	2	West Virginia	FA/90	15/1
Spencer, Jimmy	5-9/180	3-29-69	R	Florida	D8/91	—
Vaughn, Clarence (S)	6-0/200	7-17-64	4	Northern Illinois	D8/87	1/0
Walton, Alvin (S)	6-0/180	3-14-64	6	Kansas	D3/86	16/16
SPECIALISTS						
Goodburn, Kelly (P)	6-2/202	4-14-62	5	Emporia (Kan.) State	FA/90	*7/0
Lohmiller, Chip (K)	6-3/213	7-16-66	4	Minnesota	D2/88	16/0
Shale, Cris (P)	6-0/170	6-27-68	R	Bowling Green State	D10/91	—
OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP						
Walter Batson, WR; Dan Beatty, C; Jack Bradford, LB; Victor Cahoon, WR; Shane Elliott, DT; Gene Fruge, DT; Carl Harry, WR; Reggie Howard, DE; James Jenkins, TE; Brian Johnson, LB; Matt McCartin, T; Jeff Pearson, C; Thomas Rayam, DE; Ted Rogers, LB; Chris Stearns, G; Gary Willingham, DE.						

*Not with Redskins in 1990.

†Includes totals with both Redskins and another NFL team in 1990.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

DID YOU KNOW...

... that Earnest Byner last season became the first Redskins running back to be named to the Pro Bowl since Mike Thomas in 1976?

Continued

COACHES

Head coach: Joe Gibbs.
Assistant coaches:
 Don Breaux (running backs).
 Jack Burns (offensive assistant/receivers).
 Bobby DePaul (administrative assistant/defensive line).
 Rod Dowhower (quarterbacks/passing game).
 Jim Hanifan (offensive line).
 Larry Peccatiello (defensive coordinator).
 Richie Petitbon (assistant head coach/defense).
 Dan Riley (strength coach).
 Wayne Sevier (special teams).
 Rennie Simmons (offensive line).
 Charley Taylor (receivers/research and development).
 Emmitt Thomas (defensive backs).
 Torgy Torgeson (defensive line).
 Steve Wetzel (assistant strength coach).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1990 regular-season record: 10-6 (3rd in NFC East); 4-4 in division; 7-5 in conference; 7-1 at home; 3-5 on road.

1990 playoff record: Defeated Eagles, 20-6, in NFC wild-card game; lost to 49ers, 28-10, in NFC divisional playoff game.

Gibbs' regular-season record: 101-51 in 10 seasons with Redskins.

Gibbs' postseason record: 12-4 in six playoffs with Redskins (2-1 in Super Bowls).

Team record last five years: 50-29 (.633, ranks 4th in league in that span).

1990 team rankings:	NFC	NFL
Total offense.....	3	4
Rushing offense.....	3	6th
Passing offense.....	3	5
Scoring offense.....	2	4
Total defense.....	7	14
Rushing defense.....	7	9
Passing defense.....	7	16
Scoring defense.....	6	13
Takeaways.....	T6	T9
Giveaways.....	T3	T8
Turnover differential.....	3	T6
Sacks.....	3	T5
Sacks allowed.....	2	T4

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

Stadium (capacity): Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium (55,683).

Ticket information: 202-546-2222.

Flagship radio station: WMAL, 630 AM.

Training site: Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa.; 717-245-1140.

1991 SCHEDULE

Sept. 1—DETROIT	8:00
Sept. 9—at Dallas (Mon.)	8:00
Sept. 15—PHOENIX	1:00
Sept. 22—at Cincinnati	1:00
Sept. 30—PHILADELPHIA (Mon.)	9:00
Oct. 6—at Chicago	12:00
Oct. 13—CLEVELAND	1:00
Oct. 20—Open date	
Oct. 27—at N.Y. Giants	8:00
Nov. 3—HOUSTON	1:00
Nov. 10—ATLANTA	1:00
Nov. 17—at Pittsburgh	1:00
Nov. 24—DALLAS	1:00
Dec. 1—at L.A. Rams	1:00
Dec. 8—at Phoenix	2:00
Dec. 15—N.Y. GIANTS	4:00
Dec. 22—at Philadelphia	4:00

All times local.

All games Sunday unless noted.

1990 RESULTS

Sept. 9—PHOENIX	31-0
Sept. 16—at San Francisco	13-26
Sept. 23—DALLAS	19-15
Sept. 30—at Phoenix	38-10
Oct. 14—N.Y. GIANTS	20-24
Oct. 21—PHILADELPHIA	13-7
Oct. 28—at N.Y. Giants	10-21
Nov. 4—at Detroit	41-38
Nov. 12—at Philadelphia	14-28
Nov. 18—NEW ORLEANS	31-17
Nov. 22—at Dallas	17-27
Dec. 2—MIAMI	42-20
Dec. 9—CHICAGO	10-9
Dec. 15—at New England	25-10
Dec. 22—at Indianapolis	28-35
Dec. 30—BUFFALO	29-14

1990 LEADERS

Scoring (kicking): Chip Lohmiller, 131 pts. (41/41 PATs, 30/40 FGs).

Scoring (touchdowns): Gary Clark, 48 pts. (8 receiving).

Passing: Mark Rypien, 2,070 yds. (304 att., 166 comp., 54.6%, 16 TDs, 11 int.).

Rushing: Earnest Byner, 1,219 yds. (297 att., 4.1 avg., 6 TDs).

Receptions: Gary Clark, 75 (1,112 yds., 14.8 avg., 8 TDs).

Interceptions: Martin Mayhew, 7 (20 yds., 0 TDs).

Tackles: Alvin Walton, 143 (74 solo, 66 assisted).

Sacks: Fred Stokes, 7.5.

Punting: Ralf Mojsiejenko, 39.2 avg. (43 punts, 1,687 yds., 1 blocked).

Punt returns: Walter Stanley, 7.3 avg. (24 att., 176 yds., 0 TDs).

Kickoff returns: Joe Howard, 19.4 avg. (22 att., 427 yds., 0 TDs).

1990 FANTASY STATISTICS

Statistics included for current members of 1991 roster only.

Name	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING				Defensive TDs	Total TDs
	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	18-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs		
Byner	-	1	-	-	5	1	-	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Clark	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	8
Gouveia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1
Green	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1
Hobbs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Humphries	1	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
J. Johnson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Lohmiller	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	3	3	41	-	-
Mitchell	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Monk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	5
Riggs	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Rutledge	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Rypien	9	5	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
Sanders	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
Walton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1
Warren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

* fumble recovery. ° punt return.

into new positions and keep their fingers crossed.

Plan B signee Matt Millen will replace Plan B departee Greg Manusky as the middle linebacker on first down, with Kurt Gouveia taking over in passing situations. The outside linebackers have been flip-flopped, with second-year man Andre Collins moving to the weak side and veteran Wilber Marshall squaring up against the tight end.

Monte Coleman will replace Marshall on passing downs, while Ravin Caldwell will sub for either Marshall or Collins when the need arises.

The Redskins still don't have a single dominant linebacker, but Petitbon has done a good job fitting a lot of role players into spots where they can be most effective.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—This is easily Washington's weakest defensive link. Gibbs, Petitbon and Co. know what doesn't work, but getting what might work has been difficult.

Todd Bowles, who started all 18 games at free safety last year, was left unprotected in Plan B and exited for San Francisco. That leaves 1990 Plan B pickup Brad Edwards as the new free safety, assuming he can beat out 1991 Plan B signee Terry Hoage.

Things aren't quite as unstable at strong safety, where Alvin Walton will start and Clarence Vaughn and Danny Copeland figure to play backup roles.

Darrell Green and Martin Mayhew will be the starting cornerbacks. Green rebounded from wrist surgery to earn his fourth Pro Bowl citation last season, while Mayhew, in his first season as a starter, had a team-high seven interceptions.

Mayhew, originally a Plan B acquisition from Buffalo in 1989, had some problems last year in man-to-man coverage and was tested every week. But by the end of the season, the Redskins believed he was a permanent solution to a perennial problem.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Place-kicker Chip Lohmiller had another solid season in 1990, when he led the National Football Conference in both points (131) and field goals (30). He also had a streak of 28 straight games with at least one field goal—the second-longest such streak in NFL history—until it was broken midway through the season.

Bet the house on a new Redskins punter in 1991. Ralf Mojsiejenko was released after posting a 39.2-yard average in 12 games last season. His replacement, Kelly Goodburn, did even worse (34.3-yard average in the final four games). The Redskins used their 10th-round draft pick on Cris Shale, who led NCAA Division I-A with a 46.8-yard average at Bowling Green State last fall.

Walter Stanley and Joe Howard again figure to handle the bulk of the kick returns.



Season-ending thrashing will spur Bears this fall

By DAN POMPEI
Chicago Sun-Times

If a team is only as good as its last game, then the Chicago Bears will enter the 1991 National Football League season wondering just how good they really are.

On the one hand, they rebounded from a dismal 6-10 season in 1989 to win 11 games and their sixth National Football Conference Central Division title in seven years. On the other hand, just one of those wins came against a team that finished the year with a winning record. And the Bears were thrashed in the second round of the playoffs, losing 31-3 to the New York Giants in a game that was never close.

So, in which direction will the Bears go this year? They shouldn't have to wait long to find out. They'll play both of last year's Super Bowl teams (the Giants and Buffalo Bills) in the first five weeks of the season. Chicago also will play Washington and Miami at Soldier Field before concluding the season at San Francisco in a Monday-night game.

The Bears are looking forward to the challenge.

"When other teams look at us on their schedule, they know they've got a tough game, too," quarterback Jim Harbaugh said.

Harbaugh's words reveal a measure of defiance. And Ditka thinks he knows where it comes from.

"Our mood is a carry-over from last



Able-bodied Bear: There are few halfbacks in the NFL as talented as Neal Anderson, who accounted for 30 percent of the Chicago offense last year.

year," he said. "It's never fun to go out and get your butts kicked the last time out. We've got to prove we're better than that."

COACHING

Ditka signed a new three-year contract in the off-season, but don't think the added job security will change him. Everything he's accomplished in football has been the result of his fiery competitiveness. The man wants to win, and no one was hurt more by the loss to the Giants than he was.

There are no changes among the assistants. Offensive coordinator Greg Landry, who was sidelined for about a month last season due to illness, is back calling the plays again. He wants a more balanced attack in 1991 (read: throwing the ball more) and Ditka agrees with the idea. No NFL team gained fewer yards through the air than Chicago did a year ago.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—Ditka is committed to opening the season with Harbaugh as his No. 1 quarterback.

Last year, his first as a starter, the 26-year-old Harbaugh did an adequate job before suffering a separated right shoulder with two games left. His strong points are his consistency and ability to avoid costly mistakes. But to become a premier quarterback, he'll have to improve his field vision and feel for the game.

Gone to Green Bay via Plan B free agency is Mike Tomczak, who spent six seasons in Chicago without ever establishing himself as the No. 1 quarter-

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: The Bears' best players come in twos. Neal Anderson and Brad Muster may be the best pair of starting running backs in the NFL. Defensive ends Richard Dent and Trace Armstrong are excellent pass rushers. Safeties Mark Carrier and Shaun Gayle keep opponents from making a lot of big plays. This could be the deepest Chicago team since the Bears won the Super Bowl six years ago.

Weaknesses: The passing game is Stone Age vintage in an era of high-tech aerial warfare. The Bears lack a burner at wide receiver, a deficiency that lets opponents ignore the deep pass and key on the running game. If Lemuel Stinson's knee doesn't fully heal, the Bears could be in trouble at cornerback.

Key to success: If quarterback Jim Harbaugh can improve as much from 1990 to '91 as he did from 1989 to last season.

Sure sign of trouble: If Mike Ditka starts calling the offensive plays. That will mean Greg Landry's play-calling isn't working.

That's a fact: The Bears are 19-2 in their last 21 games played in September.

Coach Mike Ditka says: "The Super Bowl is what counts. I would like to see us be the most dominant team in professional football, and I think we can with our coaching staff and our players."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Davis	Kozlowski	Morgan
LT	Covert	Wojciechowski	Thomas
LG	Bortz	Fontenot	Wojciechowski
C	Hilgenberg	Fontenot	
RG	Thayer	Fontenot	Wojciechowski
RT	Van Horne	Thomas	Wojciechowski
TE	Thornton	Boso	Coley
WR	Morris	Gentry	Waddle
QB	Harbaugh	Willis	Snyder
HB	Anderson	Green	Lewis
FB	Muster	Rouse	

DEFENSE

LE	Armstrong	Kumerow	
LT	Perry	Kumerow	Zorich
RT	McMichael	Ryan	Zorich
RE	Dent	Kumerow	
LOLB	Rivera	Roper	Pruitt
MLB	Singletary	Jones	Rivera
ROLB	Morrissey	Cox	Stonebreaker
LCB	Woolford	J. Johnson	Douglass
RCB	Stinson	Mangum	Douglass
SS	Gayle	Tate	Douglass
FS	Carrier	Paul	Douglass

SPECIALISTS

K	Butler	Gardocki	
P	Gardocki	Buford	
KR	Gentry	Morgan	
PR	Bailey	Green	Kozlowski

Continued

1991 CHICAGO BEARS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	HT./WT.	Born	NFL Exp.	College	How acq.	'90 Games GP/GS
Harbaugh, Jim	6-3/202	12-23-64	5	Michigan	D1/87	14/14
Justin, Paul	6-4/202	5-19-68	R	Arizona State	D7/91	—
Snyder, Brent	6-3/230	6-4-66	1	Utah State	FA/90	0/0
Willis, Peter Tom	6-2/188	1-4-67	2	Florida State	D3a/90	3/0
RUNNING BACKS						
Anderson, Neal	5-11/210	8-14-64	6	Florida	D1/86	15/14
Bailey, Johnny	5-8/180	3-17-67	2	Texas A&I	D9/90	16/1
Green, Mark (HB)	5-11/184	3-22-67	3	Notre Dame	D5/89	12/1
Lewis, Darren	5-10/219	11-7-68	R	Texas A&M	D6/91	—
Muster, Brad (FB)	6-3/231	4-11-65	4	Stanford	D1/88	16/15
Rouse, James (FB)	6-0/220	12-18-66	2	Arkansas	D8/90	16/0
RECEIVERS						
Boso, Cap (TE)	6-4/240	9-10-63	5	Illinois	FA/87	13/1
Coley, James (TE)	6-3/270	4-13-67	3	Clemson	FA/90	16/0
Davis, Wendell	5-11/188	1-3-66	4	Louisiana State	D1a/83	14/12
Gentry, Dennis	5-8/180	2-10-59	10	Baylor	D4/82	14/5
Kozlowski, Glen	6-1/205	12-31-62	5	Brigham Young	D11/86	12/0
Morgan, Anthony	6-0/195	11-15-67	R	Tennessee	D5/91	—
Morris, Ron	6-1/195	11-14-64	5	Southern Methodist	D2/87	15/15
Smith, Quintin	5-10/172	8-17-68	2	Kansas	FA/90	4/0
Thornton, James (TE)	6-2/242	2-8-65	4	Cal State Fullerton	D4/88	16/16
Waddle, Tom	6-0/181	2-20-67	3	Boston College	FA/89	5/0
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Becker, Kurt (G)	6-5/269	12-22-58	10	Michigan	PlanB/90	10/0
Bortz, Mark (G)	6-6/272	2-12-61	9	Iowa	D8a/83	16/16
Covert, Jim (T)	6-4/278	3-22-60	9	Pittsburgh	D1/83	15/15
Fontenot, Jerry (C)	6-3/272	11-21-66	3	Texas A&M	D3/89	16/2
Hilgenberg, Jay (C)	6-3/260	3-21-60	11	Iowa	FA/81	14/14
Long, Stacy (G)	6-1/294	9-30-67	R	Clemson	D11/91	—
Matusz, Roman (T)	6-4/270	5-10-67	1	Pittsburgh	D11/90	0/0
Thayer, Tom (G)	6-4/270	8-16-61	7	Notre Dame	D4/83	16/16
Thomas, Stan (T)	6-5/302	10-28-68	R	Texas	D1/91	—
Van Horne, Keith (T)	6-6/283	11-6-57	11	Southern California	D1/81	16/16
Wojciechowski, John (G)	6-4/270	7-30-63	5	Michigan State	FA/87	13/1
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Armstrong, Trace (E)	6-4/259	10-5-65	3	Florida	D1a/89	16/16
Backes, Tom (E)	6-4/273	3-19-68	R	Oklahoma	D10/91	—
Cook, John (T)	6-4/269	5-27-68	R	Washington	D12/91	—
Dent, Richard (E)	6-5/268	12-13-60	9	Tennessee State	D8/83	16/16
Kumerow, Eric (E)	6-7/260	4-17-65	4	Ohio State	T-Mia/91	*16/0
McMichael, Steve (T)	6-2/268	10-17-57	12	Texas	FA/81	16/7
Perry, William (T)	6-2/315	12-16-62	7	Clemson	D1/85	16/16
Ryan, Tim (T)	6-4/268	9-8-67	2	Southern California	D3/90	15/0
Zorich, Chris (T)	6-1/267	3-13-69	R	Notre Dame	D2/91	—
LINEBACKERS						
Cox, Ron	6-2/242	2-27-68	2	Fresno State	D2a/90	13/0
Jones, Dante	6-1/236	3-23-65	4	Oklahoma	D2/88	2/0
Morrissey, Jim	6-3/227	12-24-62	7	Michigan State	D11/85	16/16
Pruitt, Mickey	6-1/215	1-10-65	4	Colorado	FA/88	16/2
Rivera, Ron	6-3/240	1-7-62	8	California	D2/84	14/14
Roper, John	6-1/228	10-4-65	3	Texas A&M	D2/89	14/0
Singletary, Mike	6-0/230	10-9-58	12	Baylor	D2/81	16/16
Stonebreaker, Mike	6-0/226	1-14-67	R	Notre Dame	D9/91	—
DEFENSIVE BACKS						
Carrier, Mark (S)	6-1/180	4-28-68	2	Southern California	D1/90	16/16
Douglass, Maurice (CB)	5-11/200	2-12-64	6	Kentucky	D8/86	11/0
Gayle, Shaun (S)	5-11/194	3-8-62	8	Ohio State	D10/84	16/16
Horton, Larry (CB)	5-11/179	1-2-69	R	Texas A&M	D8/91	—
Johnson, Joe (CB)	5-8/186	10-6-67	R	North Carolina State	D4/91	—
Lott, James (CB)	5-9/181	1-8-67	1	Clemson	FA/90	0/0
Mangum, John (CB)	5-10/173	3-16-67	2	Alabama	D6/90	10/0
Paul, Markus (S)	6-2/199	4-1-66	3	Syracuse	D4/89	16/0
Stinson, Lemuel (CB)	5-9/159	5-10-66	4	Texas Tech	D6/88	10/10
Tate, David (S)	6-0/177	11-22-64	4	Colorado	D8/88	16/1
Woolford, Donnell (CB)	5-9/187	1-6-66	3	Clemson	D1/89	13/13
SPECIALISTS						
Buford, Maury (P)	6-0/198	2-18-60	10	Texas Tech	W-GB/89	16/0
Butler, Kevin (K)	6-1/190	7-24-62	7	Georgia	D4/85	16/0
Gardocki, Chris (P/K)	6-1/194	2-7-70	R	Clemson	D3/91	—

OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP

Scott Asman, TE; Sean Beckett, WR; Richard Booker, LB; Peter Brantley, LB; Steve Brown, WR; Nigel Codrington, WR; Tim Cross, FB; Ron Ferguson, CB; Tre Giller, T; John Hardy, CB; Eric Ihnat, TE; Michael Johnson, WR; Tim Lance, S; Steve Montgomery, FB; Patrick Moore, DE; Quintin Parker, S; Chris Reed, G; Charles Rowe, LB; Eric Wenckowski, C; John Wiley, S; James Williams, DE; Eric Wright, WR.

*Not with Bears in 1990.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that Tom Thayer was the only starting offensive lineman who did not undergo off-season surgery? Jim Covert had knee surgery, Jay Hilgenberg had elbow surgery and Mark Bortz and Keith Van Horne both had shoulder operations. In addition, backups John Wojciechowski and Kurt Becker underwent knee surgery.

back. With Tomczak out of the way, the Bears now will find out if their giddiness over Peter Tom Willis is justified.

Willis, a third-round draft choice in 1990, will be the backup quarterback despite throwing just 13 passes last year. The Bears are so convinced of Willis' ability that they're handing him the No. 2 job without holding auditions. If fact, the only competition at quarterback will be for the No. 3 spot between hold-over Brent Snyder and rookie Paul Justin (Arizona State).

RUNNING BACKS—There are few worries here. The Bears protected five running backs in Plan B and got another (Texas A&M's Darren Lewis) who was projected to be a top draft choice but lasted until the sixth round.

There are few halfbacks in the NFL as talented as Neal Anderson, who accounted for 30 percent of the Chicago offense last year. He has been voted to two straight Pro Bowls and is a strong candidate for many more.

Starting fullback Brad Muster can block, catch (team-high 47 receptions) and run (4.7-yard rushing average) with anyone. He probably could be one of the league's better halfbacks, too, if the Bears had to use him there.

Backups Mark Green, Johnny Bailey and James Rouse are solid, but they aren't necessarily on solid ground. One of them may have to go to make room for Lewis, a consensus All-America whose draft stock plummeted after he tested positive for cocaine at a pre-draft combine in Indianapolis. The Bears claim they drafted Lewis by mistake after a front-office mix-up, but they say they're willing to give the talented running back a second chance.

RECEIVERS—The starting wide receivers again will be Wendell Davis and Ron Morris, who combined for 70 catches, 1,009 yards and six touchdowns a year ago. Those aren't bad numbers in an offense that treats the forward pass like a rude relative, but the Bears believe both players can contribute much more.

Third-down specialist Dennis Gentry, who caught 23 passes in 1990, is now 32 years old, which may be a factor for someone whose game depends so much on quickness.

Glen Kozlowski, Tom Waddle, Quintin Smith and rookie Anthony Morgan of Tennessee also may contribute.

Tight ends Jim Thornton, Cap Boso and James Coley would starve if footballs were food. They caught a meager 31 passes as a group last season, so it's anyone's guess how good they could be if the ball were thrown in their direction more often.

LINEMEN—The Bears will go to war in 1991 with the same starting five they've had since winning the Super Bowl in 1985.

Center Jay Hilgenberg and guard Mark Bortz made trips to the Pro Bowl last season, Hilgenberg for the sixth time. Left tackle Jim Covert, guard Tom Thayer and right tackle Keith Van

Horne also are solid performers. Because all of them will be at least 30 years old by the start of the season, the Bears used their No. 1 draft pick on Texas tackle Stan Thomas, who will back up Van Horne this season.

Jerry Fontenot and John Wojciechowski are capable reserves.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—Dan Hampton retired after completing his 12th season with the Bears. The standout tackle will be missed, both for his ability and his leadership, but the Bears didn't sit on their hands in the off-season. They picked up Eric Kumerow in a trade with Miami and drafted Notre Dame All-America Chris Zorich.

The Dolphins never could figure out what to do with Kumerow after drafting him in the first round in 1988. They volleyed him between linebacker and end, but the Bears are thinking more along the lines of end or tackle. Ditka believes Kumerow's 6-foot-7 height could be a big asset if he played tackle.

Playing tackle also might be the easiest way for Kumerow to get on the field. The starting ends are Trace Armstrong and Richard Dent, and the Bears are in no hurry to take playing time away from them. Armstrong has become one of the league's finest left ends in just two seasons, while Dent, a three-time



Quick learner: Trace Armstrong has become one of the NFL's finest left defensive ends in just two seasons.

Pro Bowler, arguably has been the NFC's premier right end the last six years.

Things are more unsettled at tackle. Steve McMichael, Chicago's oldest player at 33, should have at least one more good year left in his 6-2, 268-pound tank. Hampton's retirement and William Perry's infamous weight fluctuations, however, have left the other tackle spot less certain. Perry should be the starter, but if he falters, promising second-year man Tim Ryan and Zorich—a player Ditka thought of drafting in the first round before landing him in the second—will be in the hunt.

LINEBACKERS—If production and depth are the criteria for judging effectiveness, this position is a strength.

Mike Singletary played in his eighth straight Pro Bowl last season at age 32 and remains one of the game's finest middle linebackers. He led the Bears with 151 tackles last year, marking the ninth straight year he has finished first or second on the team in that department.

Four outside linebackers figure to split playing time for the second straight year. Starters Jim Morrissey and Ron Rivera excel against the pass,

Continued

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and we are beginning to get the feeling that Ditka and his players are tired of flirting with the big game and this may be the season when the "Monsters of the Midway" forget the attitude of returning to respectability and set the goal of ANOTHER WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP.

This team is not in the rebuilding mode. ... the only team that can boast a better record during the 80's is the 49ers ... and that my fellow Bears Fans is winning football ... and I don't believe it's over.

The Bears organization is a tradition that is based on winning and championships

... the same nucleus that has led this team over the past successful years is still in the locker room and ready to suit up for a repeat of the divisional championship and hopefully a berth in Super Bowl XXVI. BEAR REPORT, is noted as one of the finest NFL team tabloids published today and we would like to prove it to you.

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COACHES

Head coach: Mike Ditka.

Assistant coaches:

Steve Kazor (special teams/tight ends).

Greg Landry (offensive coordinator).

John Levra (defensive line).

Dave McGinnis (linebackers).

Vic Rapp (wide receivers).

Johnny Roland (running backs).

Dick Stanfel (offensive line).

Vince Tobin (defensive coordinator).

Zaven Yarlalian (defensive backs).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1990 regular-season record: 11-5 (1st in NFC Central); 6-2 in division; 9-3 in conference; 7-1 at home; 4-4 on road.

1990 playoff record: Defeated Saints, 16-6, in NFC wild-card game; lost to Giants, 31-3, in NFC divisional playoff game.

Ditka's regular-season record: 88-46 in nine seasons with Bears.

Ditka's postseason record: 6-5 in six playoffs with Bears (1-0 in Super Bowl).

Team record last five years: 54-25 (.684, ranks 3rd in league in that span).

1990 team rankings:	NFC	NFL
Total offense.....	7	13
Rushing offense.....	2	2
Passing offense.....	14	28
Scoring offense.....	T6	T10
Total defense.....	3	6
Rushing defense.....	6	7
Passing defense.....	5	10
Scoring defense.....	4	9
Takeaways.....	1	T1
Giveaways.....	2	6
Turnover differential.....	2	3
Sacks.....	T6	T11
Sacks allowed.....	T6	T17

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

Stadium (capacity): Soldier Field (66,946).

Ticket information: 312-663-5100.

Flagship radio station: WGN, 720 AM.

Training site: University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Platteville, Wis.; 608-342-1201.

1991 SCHEDULE

Sept. 1—MINNESOTA	3:00
Sept. 8—at Tampa Bay	1:00
Sept. 15—N.Y. GIANTS	12:00
Sept. 23—N.Y. JETS (Mon.)	8:00
Sept. 29—at Buffalo	1:00
Oct. 6—WASHINGTON	12:00
Oct. 13—Open date	
Oct. 17—at Green Bay (Thur.)	6:30
Oct. 27—at New Orleans	12:00
Nov. 3—DETROIT	12:00
Nov. 11—at Minnesota (Mon.)	8:00
Nov. 17—at Indianapolis	1:00
Nov. 24—MIAMI	12:00
Nov. 28—at Detroit (Thanks.)	12:30
Dec. 8—GREEN BAY	12:00
Dec. 14—TAMPA BAY (Sat.)	11:30
Dec. 23—at San Francisco (Mon.)	6:00

All times local.

All games Sunday unless noted.

1990 RESULTS

Sept. 9—SEATTLE	17-0
Sept. 16—at Green Bay	31-13
Sept. 23—MINNESOTA	19-16
Sept. 30—at L.A. Raiders	10-24
Oct. 7—GREEN BAY	27-13
Oct. 14—L.A. Rams	38-9
Oct. 21—Open date	
Oct. 28—at Phoenix	31-21
Nov. 4—at Tampa Bay	26-6
Nov. 11—ATLANTA	30-24
Nov. 18—at Denver (OT)	16-13
Nov. 25—at Minnesota	13-41
Dec. 2—DETROIT (OT)	23-17
Dec. 9—at Washington	9-10
Dec. 16—at Detroit	21-38
Dec. 23—TAMPA BAY	27-14
Dec. 29—KANSAS CITY	10-21

1990 LEADERS

Scoring (kicking): Kevin Butler, 114 pts. (36/37 PATs, 26/37 FGs).

Scoring (touchdowns): Neal Anderson, 78 pts. (10 rushing, 3 receiving).

Passing: Jim Harbaugh, 2,178 yds. (312 att., 180 comp., 57.7%, 10 TDs, 6 int.).

Rushing: Neal Anderson, 1,078 yds. (260 att., 4.1 avg., 10 TDs).

Receptions: Brad Muster, 47 (452 yds., 9.6 avg., 0 TDs).

Interceptions: Mark Carrier, 10 (39 yds., 0 TDs).

Tackles: Mike Singletary, 151 (67 solo, 84 assisted).

Sacks: Richard Dent, 12 (101 yds.).

Punting: Maury Buford, 40.4 avg. (76 punts, 3,073 yds., 2 blocked).

Punt returns: Johnny Bailey, 11.1 avg. (36 att., 399 yds., 1 TD).

Kickoff returns: Johnny Bailey, 15.8 avg. (23 att., 363 yds., 0 TDs).

1990 FANTASY STATISTICS

Statistics included for current members of 1991 roster only.

Name	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING				Defensive TDs	Total TDs
	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	18-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs		
Anderson	-	-	-	-	8	2	-	4	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
Bailey	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Boso	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Butler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	8	4	36	-	-
Davis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
Dent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1
Gentry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Green	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Harbaugh	1	5	4	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Morris	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Muster	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Thornton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Willis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

* fumble recovery. ° punt return.

while youngsters Ron Cox and John Roper are strong against the run.

When, or if, Singletary ever begins to slide, fourth-year player Dante Jones is ready to step in. But it probably won't be this year.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—Much will depend on whether starting cornerback Lemuel Stinson, who missed Chicago's final six games last year, can bounce back after reconstructive knee surgery.

If he can't, the secondary could get thin in a hurry. Vestee Jackson was traded to the Dolphins in the Kumerow deal, leaving John Mangum and Maurice Douglass as the only other right cornerbacks with NFL experience. Both players, however, are more suited for nickel coverage than man-to-man.

Donnell Woolford was terrific at the other corner last year and could become one of the league's best at the position if he stays healthy.

The Bears have a pair of impact players at safety in Mark Carrier and Shaun Gayle and solid depth in David Tate and Markus Paul. Carrier, a 1990 No. 1 draft pick, led the league with 10 interceptions and made the Pro Bowl playing free safety his rookie year. Ditka considered Carrier the team's most valuable defensive player last season.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Bears are committed to improvement here. To that end, Ditka has said that good special-teams performers will have the edge over good backup players when final roster cuts are made.

The Bears began their commitment by using a third-round draft pick on standout Clemson punter/place-kicker Chris Gardocki. The Bears view Gardocki primarily as a punter and kickoff man, meaning that Maury Buford is a better candidate for imminent unemployment than Kevin Butler. Buford, however, is a 10-year NFL veteran who has survived such challenges before.

Butler has been Chicago's regular place-kicker the last six years. He made 26 of 37 field-goal attempts in 1990, including an NFL-high four field goals of 50 yards or more. It would be difficult for the Bears to part with a place-kicker as skillful and reliable as Butler.

Ditka figures to be noticeably less hesitant to find new people to do the grunt work on special teams. Numerous breakdowns in protection and poor snaps proved costly last season. The Bears' punt- and kickoff-coverage units didn't set the league on its ear.

Bailey, however, nearly put the Chicago coaching staff on its collective ear with his thrill-a-minute kick returning. Bailey led the NFC with an 11.1-yard punt-return average, including a 95-yard touchdown run against Kansas City.



Lions hope to rediscover their long, lost past

By TOM KOWALSKI
Oakland Press

While some teams lose football games, the Detroit Lions have lost a generation.

The last time the Lions were champions of the National Football League, Dwight Eisenhower was president, the Cold War was raging and Elvis Presley and Pat Boone were all the rage. It was December 29, 1957, when the Lions crushed the Cleveland Browns, 59-14, to win the NFL title.

It took 26 more years for Detroit to win its next division title. In the seven years since they won the National Football Conference's Central Division in 1983, the Lions' overall record is 37-73-1.

Entering his third full season as the Detroit coach in 1991, Wayne Fontes still is in the rebuilding stage. After all, if it takes more than 30 years to cement a loser, how long does it take to erect a winner?

"When I took this job, I said it was going to take time," Fontes said. "People don't realize how bad this team has been for so long. It's going to take time, but we should show more improvement this year. We're not there yet—we're not Super Bowl contenders—but we're getting there. When this team gets to the top, we're going to stay there."

COACHING

Run-and-shoot specialists Mouse Davis and June Jones have departed,



Quarterback derby: Rodney Peete, who has proved in two years as a starter that he's more mature, has a more accurate arm and is a better leader than Andre Ware, figures to be the Lions' top signal-caller.

but Fontes says the offense will still be explosive. The Lions will continue to use four receivers and most other aspects of the run-and-shoot, but Fontes has added some modifications that he believes are necessary.

The Lions had trouble running out the clock while protecting leads last season. It will be only at such times in 1991, Fontes said, that he'll deviate from the run-and-shoot. Davis wasn't convinced of that and, being a run-and-shoot purist, he and Fontes decided to part company.

The new offensive coordinator is Dave Levy, who had been an administrative assistant to Fontes the last two years. Another new coach is Raymond Berry, the former New England head coach, who will handle the quarterbacks in Detroit.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—Berry might be walking into a mine field. Both incumbent Rodney Peete and Andre Ware are young, talented and capable of starting, but only one will, and the other is likely to become an unhappy bench warmer.

The edge at this point belongs to Peete, who in two years as a starter has proved that he's more mature, has a more accurate arm and is a better leader than Ware. Fontes already has anointed Peete No. 1, but he doesn't dismiss the possibility that Ware could win the job with a strong preseason.

Ware, Detroit's top draft choice a year ago, is convinced that with a full training camp (he missed last year's in a contract dispute), his stronger arm and superior athletic ability will help him nudge out Peete.

Stay tuned.

RUNNING BACKS—Regardless of who plays quarterback, it's never a bad idea to hand the ball to Barry Sanders.

Sanders has rushed for more yards in his two NFL seasons than any other running back over the same period. And if opposing teams thought Sanders was too much to handle in the past, the future may be an absolute nightmare. Instead of having him just catch screen passes and short dump-offs, the Lions plan to have Sanders run routes downfield as well this year to capitalize on mismatches against the defense.

James Wilder, an 11-year veteran in

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Moore	Clark	Gray
WR	Campbell	Matthews	Clark
LT	L. Brown	E. Sanders	
LG	Andolsek	Dallaflor	Conover
C	Glover	Dallaflor	Conover
RG	Uteley	Dallaflor	Conover
RT	Salem	E. Sanders	
WR	Clark	Matthews	Farr
WR	Barrett	Clark	Gray
QB	Peete	A. Ware	Kramer
RB	B. Sanders	Wilder	Jackson

DEFENSE

LE	Owens	Hunter	Duckens
LT	Spindler	Pete	
RT	Ball	Pete	
RE	Pritchett	Hunter	Duckens
LOLB	Jamison	Noga	Hayworth
MLB	Spielman	Gibson	V. Jones
ROLB	Cofer	Hayworth	Noga
LCB	Crockett	Scott	Oldham
RCB	Taylor	Scott	Oldham
SS	White	Welch	
FS	Blades	White	Welch

SPECIALISTS

K	Murray	Arnold	
P	Arnold	Murray	
KR	Gray	Campbell	Oldham
PR	Gray	Campbell	Matthews

AT A GLANCE

Strengths:

The Lions are strong up the middle on both sides of the ball. Quarterbacks Rodney Peete and Andre Ware, running back Barry Sanders, defensive tackle Jerry Ball and inside linebacker Chris Spielman are outstanding—and young.

Weaknesses: The success of the defense depends on its pass rush, and so far it has been anemic. There also are a lot of questions in the secondary, especially at cornerback.

Key to success: The young players must come through. The Lions think they have drafted well recently, and those players must prove it.

Sure sign of trouble: A quarterback controversy. The last thing the young Lions need is for half the team to back Peete as the starter while the other half favors Ware.

That's a fact: The Lions don't have a single player on the current roster who was drafted in either 1984 or '86. Only two players remain from each of the 1985 and '87 drafts.

Coach Wayne Fontes says: "When you look at our roster, you can see that we'll be releasing some good veteran players in training camp. It's been a long time since this team has done that. And when it happens, you know you've got good young players who can help you win."

Continued

COACHES

Head coach: Wayne Fontes.
Assistant coaches:
 Raymond Berry (quarterbacks).
 Don Clemons (defensive assistant).
 Len Fontes (defensive backs).
 Frank Ganz (special teams).
 Bert Hill (strength coach/defensive assistant).
 Lamar Leachman (defensive line).
 Dave Levy (offensive coordinator).
 Billie Matthews (running backs).
 Herb Paterra (inside linebackers).
 Charlie Sanders (receivers).
 Jerry Wampfler (offensive line).
 Woody Widenhofer (defensive coordinator/outside linebackers).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1990 regular-season record: 6-10 (3rd in NFC Central); 3-5 in division; 5-7 in conference; 3-5 at home; 3-5 on road.

1990 playoff record: None.

Fontes' regular-season record: 15-22 in three seasons with Lions.

Fontes' postseason record: None.

Team record last five years: 26-53 (.329, ranks 25th in league in that span).

1990 team rankings:	NFC	NFL
Total offense.....	8	14
Rushing offense.....	5	11
Passing offense.....	8	14
Scoring offense.....	11	23
Total defense.....	14	28
Rushing defense.....	14	27
Passing defense.....	10	20
Scoring defense.....	9	18
Takeaways.....	T10	T16
Giveaways.....	9	T19
Turnover differential.....	T7	T12
Sacks.....	T6	T11
Sacks allowed.....	T8	T19

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

Stadium (capacity): Pontiac Silverdome (80,500).
Ticket information: 313-335-4151.
Flagship radio station: WWJ, 950 AM.
Training site: Pontiac Silverdome, Pontiac, Mich.; 313-335-4131.

1991 SCHEDULE

Sept. 1—at Washington	8:00
Sept. 8—GREEN BAY	1:00
Sept. 15—MIAMI	1:00
Sept. 22—at Indianapolis	12:00
Sept. 29—TAMPA BAY	1:00
Oct. 6—MINNESOTA	1:00
Oct. 13—Open date	
Oct. 20—at San Francisco	1:00
Oct. 27—DALLAS	4:00
Nov. 3—at Chicago	12:00
Nov. 10—at Tampa Bay	1:00
Nov. 17—L.A. RAMS	4:00
Nov. 24—at Minnesota	12:00
Nov. 28—CHICAGO (Thanks.)	12:30
Dec. 8—N.Y. JETS	4:00
Dec. 15—at Green Bay	12:00
Dec. 22—at Buffalo	1:00

All times local.

All games Sunday unless noted.

1990 RESULTS

Sept. 9—TAMPA BAY	21-38
Sept. 16—ATLANTA	21-14
Sept. 23—at Tampa Bay	20-23
Sept. 30—GREEN BAY	21-24
Oct. 7—at Minnesota	34-27
Oct. 14—at Kansas City	24-43
Oct. 21—Open date	
Oct. 28—at New Orleans	27-10
Nov. 4—WASHINGTON (OT)	38-41
Nov. 11—MINNESOTA	7-17
Nov. 18—at N.Y. Giants	0-20
Nov. 22—DENVER	40-27
Dec. 2—at Chicago (OT)	17-23
Dec. 10—L.A. RAIDERS	31-38
Dec. 16—CHICAGO	38-21
Dec. 22—at Green Bay	24-17
Dec. 30—at Seattle	10-30

1990 LEADERS

Scoring (kicking): Eddie Murray, 73 pts. (34/34 PATs, 13-19 FGs).
Scoring (touchdowns): Barry Sanders, 96 pts. (13 rushing, 3 receiving).
Passing: Rodney Peete, 1,974 yds. (271 att., 142 comp., 52.4%, 13 TDs, 8 int.).
Rushing: Barry Sanders, 1,304 yds. (255 att., 5.1 avg., 13 TDs).
Receptions: Richard Johnson, 64 (727 yds., 11.4 avg., 6 TDs).
Interceptions: William White, 5 (120 yds., 1 TD).
Tackles: Chris Spielman, 108 (79 solo, 29 assisted).
Sacks: Michael Cofer, 10 (57 yds.).
Punting: Jim Arnold, 40.6 avg. (63 punts, 2,560 yds., 0 blocked).
Punt returns: Mel Gray, 10.6 avg. (34 att., 362 yds., 0 TDs).
Kickoff returns: Mel Gray, 22.9 avg. (41 att., 939 yds., 0 TDs).

1990 FANTASY STATISTICS

Statistics included for current members of 1991 roster only.

Name	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING				Defensive TDs	Total TDs
	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	18-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs		
Campbell	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Clark	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	8
Crockett	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1
Greer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Kauric	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	4	-	24	-	-
Matthews	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Murray	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	3	-	34	-	-
Peete	6	5	2	1	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
Sanders	-	-	-	-	8	4	1	4	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	16
Ware	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Wilder	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
W. White	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1

* fumble recovery. * interception.

the twilight of his career, will be Sanders' backup but lacks the speed to be an effective runner in the spread offense.

RECEIVERS—After failing repeatedly in recent years to acquire top-notch wide receivers, the Lions think they've hit the jackpot this year. They used their first two 1991 draft picks on Herman Moore of Virginia (first round) and Reggie Barrett of Texas-El Paso (third), two pass catchers who should excel in a pass-happy offense.

Moore and Barrett are big, fast receivers with great leaping ability and a nose for the ball. Fontes already has plugged both rookies into the starting lineup for the season opener at Washington, which says as much about the talent of Moore and Barrett as it does about the state of Detroit's receiving corps.

The other two starters will be second-year man Jeff Campbell and Robert Clark. In a somewhat curious move, the Lions let Richard Johnson, their top receiver the last two years, exit to Houston as a Plan B free agent.

LINEMEN—The run-and-shoot plays to the strength of good pass-blocking linemen, which suits these guys just fine.

The Lions' best lineman is left tackle Lomas Brown, who was voted to the Pro Bowl after giving up just 2½ sacks last season. Harvey Salem is entrenched at right tackle, while left guard Eric Andolsek and center Kevin Glover are both solid performers. The only platoon position is right guard, where Mike Utley and Ken Dallafior will split time.

Eric Sanders, an 11-year NFL veteran, is the Lions' top reserve lineman.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—If the defensive linemen acquired over the last couple of years are as good as the Lions think they are, the days of the "Silver Rush" could be returning soon.

Pro Bowl nose tackle Jerry Ball was talking trade before signing a new, lucrative deal that has him haughty and happy. In the 1990 draft, the Lions drafted Dan Owens in the second round and stole Marc Spindler—a projected first-rounder—in the third. Both players proved their worth last season, and Spindler's off-season knee surgery was a rousing success.

This year, the Lions added Kelvin Pritchett (Mississippi), a first-round draft choice acquired from Dallas, to the mix.

Because of their sudden wealth of young linemen, the Lions are contemplating a switch from a 3-4 defense to a four-man front. Right now, the plan is to put Pritchett at right end, Ball at right tackle, Spindler at left tackle and Owens at left end. Depending on how training camp goes, Fontes said Spindler and Owens could flip-flop positions.

Lawrence Pete, Jeff Hunter and

Mark Duckens will supply backup help.

LINEBACKERS—If the Lions go to the 4-3, one of the starting linebackers is no longer a starter, and the most likely candidate is Dennis Gibson. After starting every game in his first two seasons in Detroit, Gibson has been plagued by injuries the last two.

Two players who won't lose any playing time are outside linebacker Mike Cofer and inside man Chris Spielman, who have both played in a Pro Bowl game since 1988. Cofer is a relentless pass rusher, while Spielman excels against the run. Left outside linebacker George Jamison is solid.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—About the only certainty in the secondary is that LeRoy Irvin, who started 16 games at cornerback in 1990, won't be back. He retired after 11 pro seasons.

There are a ton of questions to be answered, and none will be soon.

Will Bennie Blades, the third player drafted in 1988, finally become an impact NFL player? He was bounced between strong and free safety before Fontes stuck him at free safety last year.

Will strong safety William White, who plays mistake-free for 59 minutes, eliminate that one costly mistake per game?

Will third-year cornerback Ray Crockett continue to improve, or has he reached his peak?

And what about cornerback Terry Taylor? Suspended by the NFL for substance abuse on September 21, 1990, he is eligible to come back after one full year. The Lions want him back, but how well will he play after a year of inactivity?

The Lions like their young reserve cornerbacks, including Chris Oldham, Bruce Alexander and rookie Kevin Scott, but can they produce in the crunch?

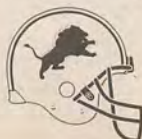
SPECIAL TEAMS

The Lions have sent three different special-teams performers to the last three Pro Bowls—punter Jim Arnold in 1988, place-kicker Eddie Murray in '89 and return specialist Mel Gray last year.

Frank Gansz, who came to Detroit in 1989, is living up to his reputation as an excellent special-teams coach. The Lions finished third in the league in kickoff returns and fifth in punt returns last year.

Gray, who ranked fourth in the NFL in both punt and kick returns, again will do double duty in Detroit.

This may be the year Murray, the Lions' regular kicker since 1980, relinquishes that job. He kicked an NFL-low (among regulars) 13 field goals in 1990 and was hampered all year by a bad hip. The Lions drafted Florida State's Rich Andrews in the sixth round to challenge for the job. Arnold will be the punter.



1991 DETROIT LIONS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL Exp.	College	How acq.	'90 Games GP/GS
Kramer, Erik	6-1/195	11-6-64	2	North Carolina State	FA/90	0/0
Peete, Rodney	6-0/193	3-16-66	3	Southern California	D6/89	11/11
Ware, Andre	6-2/205	7-31-68	2	Houston	D1/90	4/1
RUNNING BACKS						
Jackson, Cedric	5-11/229	1-13-68	R	Texas Christian	D8/91	—
Overton, Don	6-0/221	9-24-67	2	Fairmont (W.Va.) State	FA/91	0/0
Sanders, Barry	5-8/203	7-16-68	3	Oklahoma State	D1/89	16/16
Wilder, James	6-3/225	5-12-58	11	Missouri	T-Was/90	+16/0
RECEIVERS						
Barrett, Reggie	6-3/215	8-14-69	R	Texas-El Paso	D3/91	—
Campbell, Jeff	5-8/167	3-29-68	2	Colorado	D5/90	16/8
Claiborne, Robert	5-10/175	7-10-67	1	San Diego State	D12/90	0/0
Clark, Robert	5-11/173	8-6-65	4	North Carolina Central	FA/89	16/15
Dawson, Lin (TE)	6-3/240	6-24-59	10	North Carolina State	FA/91	*3/0
Farr, Mike	5-10/192	8-8-67	2	UCLA	FA/90	12/8
Gray, Mel (KR)	5-9/162	3-16-61	6	Purdue	FA/89	16/0
Green, Willie	6-2/179	4-2-66	1	Mississippi	D8a/90	IR
Greer, Terry	6-1/192	9-27-57	6	Alabama State	FA/89	15/9
Matthews, Aubrey	5-7/165	9-15-62	6	Delta State (Miss.)	FA/90	13/6
Moore, Herman	6-3/205	10-20-69	R	Virginia	D1/91	—
Pillow, Frank	5-11/170	3-11-65	4	Tennessee State	PlanB/91	*16/2
Riley, Eugene (TE)	6-3/238	10-9-66	2	Ball State	PlanB/91	*1/0
Tennell, Derek (TE)	6-5/250	2-12-64	4	UCLA	FA/91	0/0
Thomas, Franklin (TE)	6-4/245	4-22-68	R	Grambling State	D7/91	—
Watkins, Slip (KR)	5-9/173	9-29-67	R	Louisiana State	D11/91	—
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Andolsek, Eric (G)	6-2/286	8-22-66	4	Louisiana State	D5/88	16/16
Brown, Lomas (T)	6-4/287	3-30-63	7	Florida	D1/85	16/16
Conover, Scott (G)	6-4/276	9-27-68	R	Purdue	D5/91	—
Dallaflor, Ken (G/C)	6-4/279	8-26-59	7	Minnesota	FA/89	16/15
Fortin, Roman (T)	6-5/270	2-26-67	1	San Diego State	D8b/90	IR
Glover, Kevin (C)	6-2/282	6-17-63	7	Maryland	D2/85	16/16
Graybill, Michael (T)	6-7/280	10-14-66	3	Boston University	PlanB/91	0/0
Salem, Harvey (T/G)	6-6/289	1-15-61	9	California	T-Hou/86	15/14
Sanders, Eric (T/G)	6-7/286	10-22-58	11	Nevada	W-Atl/86	16/2
Utley, Mike (G/T)	6-6/279	12-20-65	3	Washington State	D3/89	16/1
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Ball, Jerry (NT)	6-1/298	12-15-64	5	Southern Methodist	D3/87	15/15
Duckens, Mark (E)	6-4/270	3-4-65	3	Arizona State	FA/90	15/0
Ferguson, Keith (E)	6-5/276	4-3-59	11	Ohio State	W-SD/85	16/14
Hadd, Gary (E)	6-4/278	10-19-65	3	Minnesota	FA/91	0/0
Hunter, Jeff (E)	6-5/285	4-12-66	2	Albany (Ga.) State	FA/90	+10/0
Milburn, Darryl (E)	6-3/255	10-25-68	R	Grambling State	D9/91	—
Owens, Dan (E)	6-3/268	3-16-67	2	Southern California	D2/90	16/12
Pete, Lawrence (NT)	6-0/282	1-18-66	3	Nebraska	D5/89	6/1
Pritchett, Kelvin (E)	6-3/281	10-24/69	R	Mississippi	T-Dal/91	—
Spindler, Marc	6-5/277	11-28-69	2	Pittsburgh	D3/90	3/2
LINEBACKERS						
Alexander, Zeno	6-1/224	3-13-68	R	Arizona	D12/91	—
Brown, Mark	6-2/240	7-18-61	9	Purdue	W-Mia/89	15/0
Caston, Toby	6-1/243	7-17-65	5	Louisiana State	FA/89	12/4
Cofer, Michael	6-5/244	4-7-60	9	Tennessee	D3/83	16/16
Gibson, Dennis	6-2/243	2-8-64	5	Iowa State	D8/87	11/11
Hayworth, Tracy	6-3/250	12-18-67	2	Tennessee	D7/90	16/0
Hinckley, Rob	6-4/241	7-19-67	1	Stanford	D4a/90	0/0
Jamison, George	6-1/228	9-30-62	5	Cincinnati	SupD2/84	14/7
Jones, Victor	6-2/240	10-19-66	4	Virginia Tech	FA/89	16/5
Noga, Niko	6-1/235	3-1-62	8	Hawaii	FA/89	16/0
Spielman, Chris	6-0/247	10-11-65	4	Ohio State	D2b/88	12/12
DEFENSIVE BACKS						
Alexander, Bruce (CB)	5-9/169	9-17-65	3	Stephen F. Austin State	FA/89	1/0
Blades, Bennie (S)	6-1/221	9-3-66	4	Miami (Fla.)	D1/88	12/12
Crockett, Ray (CB)	5-9/181	1-5-67	3	Baylor	D4/89	16/6
Futrell, Bobby	5-11/185	8-4-62	5	Elizabeth City (N.C.) State	FA/91	0/0
Jenkins, Melvin (CB)	5-10/176	3-16-62	5	Cincinnati	PlanB/91	*16/0
McNorton, Bruce (CB)	5-11/175	2-28-59	10	Georgetown (Ky.)	D4/82	12/8
Oldham, Chris (CB)	5-9/183	10-26-68	2	Oregon	D4b/90	16/0
Scott, Kevin (CB)	5-9/175	5-19-69	R	Stanford	D4/91	—
Vanhorse, Sean (CB)	5-10/180	7-22-68	1	Howard	PlanB/91	IR
Welch, Herb (S)	5-11/180	1-12-61	6	UCLA	FA/90	16/4
White, Sheldon (CB)	5-11/188	3-1-65	4	Miami of Ohio	W-NYG/90	3/0
White, William	5-10/191	2-19-66	4	Ohio State	D4/88	16/16
SPECIALISTS						
Andrews, Rich (K)	5-10/160	3-11-69	R	Florida State	D6/91	—
Arnold, Jim (P)	6-3/211	1-31-61	9	Vanderbilt	FA/86	16/0
Kauric, Jerry (K)	6-0/210	6-28-63	2	None	FA/91	*14/0
Murray, Eddie (K)	5-10/180	8-29-56	12	Tulane	D7/80	11/0
OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP						
Shawn Bouwens, G; Delmar Chesley, LB; Greg Jones, QB; Greg Patrick, DB; Claude Pettaway, DB; Kerry Valerie, S; Darrell Wallace, RB/KR; Riley Ware, DB.						

*Not with Lions in 1990.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

+Includes totals with both Lions and another NFL team in 1990.

DID YOU KNOW ...

... that the Lions open the 1991 season on the road against the Washington Redskins, a team they have beaten just three times in 23 games?

The Pack has come back—to reality, that is

By PETE FAUST
Milwaukee Journal

Boy, what a difference a year makes.

One year ago, the Green Bay Packers were coming off a 1989 season in which they won 10 games for the first time in 17 years and narrowly missed making the playoffs for the first time in seven. Some of their die-hard followers even began to talk about a return to the glory years of the 1960s.

There is no such talk this year. The Packers lost their last five games of 1990 to finish at 6-10. Everything that had seemed to go so right in 1989 went so wrong last year. Of course, in retrospect, it's easy to see that the Packers benefited greatly in '89 by having the National Football League's easiest schedule. They won an NFL-record four games by one point that year and had more than a few questionable instant-replay decisions go in their favor. That success provided a much-needed shot in the arm for a hurting franchise, but it may have been more illusion than reality.

"What happened (in 1990) brought our football team back to the reality of who we are," said Green Bay Coach Lindy Infante, who admits to having helped foster the inflated expectations that accompanied last year's team. "I don't think a lot of people truly realized what kind of football team we were. I didn't do anything to try to quiet the ex-



Prerequisite Packer: Don Majkowski is Green Bay's most indispensable player.

pectations because I'm a firm believer that you have to expect to do well before you are able to do well."

Fortunately for Infante, the 1990 record probably was as deceptive in a negative way as the 10-6 mark had been in a positive one. Had quarterback Don Majkowski ended his 45-day contract holdout sooner and not missed the last six games with a shoulder injury, it's

conceivable the Packers could have won two more games and squeezed into the playoffs as a wild-card team. The 8-8 New Orleans Saints did.

But even if the Packers had made the playoffs last year, they likely would have gotten bounced out quickly. Majkowski's absence helped to expose some weaknesses, particularly a shaky offensive line. Green Bay also lacked a proven running back and had a defense that was showing signs of decay.

And with the 1991 season just around the corner, it's not certain those problems have been solved.

COACHING

Infante still has the fans and players on his side, but some of his decisions last year were scrutinized more closely than they would have been in his first two seasons. His decision not to put guards Ron Hallstrom and Rich Moran back in the starting lineup after contract holdouts was puzzling to many and caused dissension on the offensive line. Infante denied that either player was being punished for holding out.

Also, how much blame should the coaching staff accept for the failure of offensive tackle Tony Mandarich to develop into a big-time NFL player? Infante and line coach Charlie Davis have to be held accountable for some of Mandarich's slow development.

The coaching staff's reluctance to use rookies also has become a sore point with some Packer backers. Just one rookie (tight end Jackie Harris, three games) started for Green Bay in 1990, even though there was ample opportunity for the team's two No. 1 draft picks—linebacker Tony Bennett and running back Darrell Thompson—and No. 2 pick LeRoy Butler, a cornerback, to contribute.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—Majkowski is the most indispensable player the Packers have, a fact that became painfully obvious late last year. The Packers will need his leadership, mobility and propensity for big plays, especially if the offensive line can't improve on its pass protection. The progress reports on Majkowski's rotator cuff rehab have been positive so far, but the severity of that kind of injury has created doubts whether he'll ever regain his Pro Bowl form of 1989.

Anthony Dilweg started five of the final six games Majkowski was sidelined, but the Packers apparently were unimpressed. They signed former Chicago quarterback Mike Tomczak as a Plan B free agent to challenge Dilweg for the No. 2 job. Dilweg is an intelligent player, but he had trouble holding on to the ball. He lost six of 10 fumbles in 1990, both team highs.

RUNNING BACKS—Most decent NFL teams have at least one running back on their roster who is a threat to gain

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: When healthy, wide receiver Sterling Sharpe and quarterback Don Majkowski are big-play performers. Despite an off season in 1990, outside linebacker Tim Harris still is a disruptive force.

Weaknesses: The Packers don't protect their quarterbacks well or pressure opposing passers enough. The ground game lacks a dynamic running back. The secondary is old and slow.

Key to success: Majkowski must be healthy and must play like he did in 1989.

Sure sign of trouble: If offensive tackle Tony Mandarich plays poorly in the season opener against Philadelphia. The Eagles ridiculed the big guy last year, and the rematch will set the tone in what figures to be an important season for him.

That's a fact: No receiver in NFL history has caught more passes in his first three seasons than Sharpe, whose 212 receptions tied a record set by Tom Fears of the Los Angeles Rams from 1948 through '50.

Coach Lindy Infante says: "This is the year we find out if Tony Mandarich is worthy of being the Number 2 pick in the draft. This is the year we find out what the hell we have. There were times when Tony Mandarich looked like a potentially dominant tackle. There were other times when he was virtually non-existent. The consistency wasn't there."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Query	Kemp	Affholter
LT	Ruettgers		
LG	Moran	Cheek	Garten
C	Campen	Bush	Garten
RG	Hallstrom	Uecker	Derby
RT	Mandarich	Derby	Jones
TE	J. Harris	West	Kinchen
WR	Sharpe	Wilson	Weathers
QB	Majkowski	Dilweg	Tomczak
HB	Woodside	Fontenot	Workman
FB	Thompson	Haddix	Webb

DEFENSE

LE	Brock	Patterson	Davey
NT	Nelson	Tuaolo	Jurkovic
RE	Brown	Archambeau	Hall
LOLB	Bennett	Stephen	Blevins
LILB	Noble	Paup	G. Clark
RILB	Holland	Dent	Larson
ROLB	T. Harris	Weddington	Burnette
LCB	Lee	V. Clark	Pitts
RCB	Butler	Holmes	Mitchell
SS	Murphy	Labbe	Greene
FS	Cecil	Hauck	Woods

SPECIALISTS

K	Jacke	Daluiso	Affholter
P	Fite	Bracken	Hester
KR	Wilson	Workman	Sikahema
PR	Query	Sikahema	Pitts



Trend setter: No receiver in NFL history caught more passes in his first three seasons than Sterling Sharpe.

1,000 yards in a season. The Packers, who haven't had a 1,000-yard rusher since Terrell Middleton in 1978, barely got that amount from all of their running backs combined in 1990. Green Bay's "Run to Twilight" backfield accounted for 1,008 yards, the lowest total in the league.

The Packers gave up on unreliable Brent Fullwood early last season and are looking for a replacement. Thompson showed some flashes of potential as a rookie but doesn't have the power and speed of many good backs. He also needs to improve on his pass blocking, a required skill in Infante's pass-oriented offense.

One savior could be third-round draft choice Chuck Webb of Tennessee, who might have been a No. 1 pick had he not ripped up his knee in the Volunteers' second game last year. If Webb can recover fully from reconstructive surgery, he has the talent to become this team's best running back.

Michael Haddix was Green Bay's leading rusher with 311 yards last season, but he's better at blocking than running or receiving. Keith Woodside, Vince Workman and Herman Fontenot also figure in the mix at a crowded, if not talented, position.

RECEIVERS—Infante's offense requires good receivers, and he has perhaps the strongest, deepest group in his Green Bay tenure.

Sterling Sharpe caught a team-high 67 passes last season and returned to the Pro Bowl despite playing the last six weeks with three cracked ribs.

Perry Kemp starts opposite Sharpe, but he doesn't have the game-breaking speed the Packers want to divert some of the defense's attention away from Sharpe. Jeff Query and Charles Wilson do have such speed, but they make

1991 GREEN BAY PACKERS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL Exp.	College	How acq.	'90 Games GP/GS
Dilweg, Anthony	6-4/198	3-28-65	3	Duke	D3b/89	9/7
Kiel, Blair	6-0/203	11-29-61	7	Notre Dame	FA/89	3/1
Majkowski, Don	6-3/208	2-25-64	5	Virginia	D10/87	9/8
Tomczak, Mike	6-1/195	10-23-62	7	Ohio State	PlanB/91	*16/2
RUNNING BACKS						
Byrum, Carl (FB)	6-0/238	6-29-62	4	Mississippi Valley State	FA/91	0/0
Dean, Walter (FB)	5-10/211	5-1-68	R	Grambling State	D6/91	—
Douglas, Derrick (FB)	5-10/205	8-10-68	1	Louisiana Tech	PlanB/91	0/0
Fontenot, Herman	6-0/205	9-12-63	7	Louisiana State	T-Cle/89	14/0
Haddix, Michael (FB)	6-1/230	12-27-61	9	Mississippi State	PlanB/89	16/12
Rice, Allen	5-10/206	4-5-62	8	Baylor	PlanB/91	*15/0
Sikahema, Vai (KR)	5-9/191	8-29-62	6	Brigham Young	PlanB/91	*16/0
Thompson, Darrell (FB)	6-0/215	11-23-67	2	Minnesota	D1b/90	16/0
Webb, Chuck (FB)	5-9/209	11-17-69	R	Tennessee	D3a/91	—
Woodside, Keith	6-0/200	7-29-64	4	Texas A&M	D3/88	16/13
Workman, Vince	5-10/195	5-9-68	3	Ohio State	D5b/89	15/0
RECEIVERS						
Affholter, Erik	6-0/182	4-10-66	1	Southern California	D4/89	IR
Bland, Carl	5-11/179	8-17-61	8	Virginia Union	FA/90	14/0
Collins, Linzy	6-1/185	1-24-69	R	Missouri	D12/91	—
Harris, Jackie (TE)	6-3/240	1-4-68	2	Northeast Louisiana	D4/90	16/3
Harris, William (TE)	6-5/255	2-10-65	4	Bishop (Tex.)	FA/91	4/0
Kemp, Perry	6-0/165	12-31-61	5	California (Pa.)	FA/88	16/16
Kinchen, Brian (TE)	6-2/232	8-6-65	4	Louisiana State	PlanB/91	*4/0
Porter, Rapier (TE)	6-4/275	8-14-66	R	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	D10/91	—
Query, Jeff	6-0/167	3-7-67	3	Millikin (Ill.)	D5a/89	16/0
Sharpe, Sterling	6-0/202	4-6-65	4	South Carolina	D1/88	16/16
Walker, Johnny	6-0/188	11-18-68	R	Texas	D8/91	—
Weathers, Clarence	5-9/182	1-10-62	9	Delaware State	PlanB/90	14/0
West, Ed (TE)	6-1/240	8-2-61	8	Auburn	FA/84	16/16
Wilson, Charles	5-9/174	7-1-68	2	Memphis State	D5/90	15/0
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Ard, Billy (G)	6-3/273	3-12-59	11	Wake Forest	PlanB/89	15/15
Bush, Blair (C)	6-4/273	11-25-56	8	Washington	PlanB/89	16/0
Campen, James (C)	6-3/275	6-11-64	5	Tulane	PlanB/89	16/16
Cheek, Louis (G/T)	6-6/286	10-6-64	4	Texas A&M	PlanB/91	*5/1
Derby, Glenn (T/G)	6-6/290	6-27-64	3	Wisconsin	PlanB/91	*4/0
Garten, Joe (C/G)	6-2/286	8-13-68	R	Colorado	D6a/91	—
Hallstrom, Ron (G)	6-6/297	6-11-59	10	Iowa	D1/82	16/4
Jones, Scott (T)	6-5/282	3-20-66	3	Washington	PlanB/91	*3/0
Mandarch, Tony (T)	6-5/295	9-23-66	3	Michigan State	D1/89	16/16
Moran, Rich (G)	6-3/283	3-19-62	7	San Diego State	D3/85	16/1
Ruettgers, Ken (T)	6-5/288	8-20-62	7	Southern California	D1/85	11/11
Uecker, Keith (G/T)	6-5/295	6-29-60	8	Auburn	W-Den/84	13/13
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Archambeau, Lester (E)	6-4/270	6-27-67	2	Stanford	D7/90	4/0
Brock, Matt (E/NT)	6-5/285	1-14-66	3	Oregon	D3a/89	16/16
Brown, Robert (E)	6-3/270	5-21-60	10	Virginia Tech	D4/82	16/16
Davey, Don (E)	6-3/269	4-8-68	R	Wisconsin	D3/91	—
Hall, Mark (E)	6-4/280	8-21-65	3	Southwestern Louisiana	D7/89	3/0
Nelson, Bob (NT)	6-4/275	3-3-59	5	Miami (Fla.)	FA/88	16/16
Patterson, Shawn (E)	6-5/270	6-13-64	4	Arizona State	D2/88	11/0
Ridgle, Elston (E)	6-5/275	8-24-63	4	Nevada	FA/91	*10/0
Tuaolo, Esera (NT)	6-2/280	7-11-68	R	Oregon State	D2/91	—
Wierenga, J.J. (E)	6-3/276	11-12-67	R	Central Michigan	D11/91	—
Winter, Blaise (E)	6-4/282	1-31-62	7	Syracuse	FA/90	13/0
LINEBACKERS						
Bennett, Tony	6-2/233	7-1-67	2	Mississippi	D1a/90	14/0
Blevins, Frank	6-5/232	12-31-68	R	Oklahoma	D7/91	—
Burnette, Reggie	6-2/235	10-4-68	R	Houston	D7a/91	—
Clark, Greg	6-0/232	3-5-65	4	Arizona State	PlanB/91	*11/0
Dent, Burnell	6-2/234	3-16-63	6	Tulane	D6/86	15/2
Harris, Tim	6-7/258	9-10-64	6	Memphis State	D4a/86	16/16
Holland, Johnny	6-2/233	3-11-65	5	Texas A&M	D2/87	16/16
Larson, Kurt	6-4/244	2-25-66	3	Michigan State	PlanB/91	*16/0
Noble, Brian	6-4/243	9-6-62	7	Arizona State	D5/85	14/14
Paup, Bryce	6-5/245	2-29-68	2	Northern Iowa	D6/90	15/0
Stephen, Scott	6-2/243	6-18-64	5	Arizona State	D3b/87	16/16
Wedington, Mike	6-4/243	10-9-60	6	Oklahoma	FA/86	6/0
Witkowski, Dean	6-2/238	7-7-68	R	North Dakota	D9/91	—
DEFENSIVE BACKS						
Butler, LeRoy (CB)	6-0/192	7-19-68	2	Florida State	D2/90	16/0
Cecil, Chuck (S)	6-0/188	11-8-64	4	Arizona	D4a/88	9/8
Clark, Vinnie (CB)	6-0/189	1-22-69	R	Ohio State	D1/91	—
Donelson, Ventson (CB)	5-11/180	2-2-68	1	Michigan State	PlanB/91	IR
Greene, Tiger (S)	6-0/192	2-15-62	7	Western Carolina	FA/86	16/8
Hauck, Tim (S)	5-11/185	12-20-66	2	Montana	PlanB/91	*10/0
Holmes, Jerry (CB)	6-2/176	12-22-57	10	West Virginia	PlanB/90	16/16
Lee, Mark (CB)	6-1/195	3-20-58	12	Washington	D2/80	16/16
Mitchell, Roland (CB)	5-11/180	3-15-64	5	Texas Tech	PlanB/91	*13/2
Murphy, Mark (S)	6-2/203	4-22-58	10	West Liberty (W.Va.) State	FA/80	16/16
Pitts, Ron (CB)	5-10/183	10-14-62	6	UCLA	FA/88	16/0
Woods, Jerry (S)	5-8/193	2-13-66	2	Northern Michigan	FA/90	16/0
SPECIALISTS						
Bracken, Don (P)	6-1/218	2-16-62	7	Michigan	FA/85	16/0
Fite, Jeff (P/WR)	6-1/206	2-1-69	R	Memphis State	D5/91	—
Jackie, Chris (K)	6-0/197	3-12-66	3	Texas-El Paso	D6/89	16/0

*Not with Packers in 1990.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

Continued

COACHES

Head coach: Lindy Infante.
Assistant coaches:
 Greg Blache (defensive line).
 Hank Bullough (defensive coordinator).
 Joe Clark (assistant offensive line).
 Charlie Davis (offensive line).
 Wayne (Buddy) Geis (receivers).
 Dick Jauron (defensive backfield).
 Virgil Knight (tight ends).
 Dick Moseley (outside linebackers).
 Willie Peete (offensive backfield).
 Russ Riederer (strength and conditioning).
 Howard (Tip) Tippet (special teams).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1990 regular-season record: 6-10 (4th in NFC Central); 3-5 in division; 5-7 in conference; 3-5 at home; 3-5 on road.

1990 playoff record: None.

Infante's regular-season record: 20-28 in three seasons with Packers.

Infante's postseason record: None.

Team record last five years: 29-49-1 (.373, ranks 23rd in league in that span).

1990 team rankings:	NFC	NFL
Total offense.....	11	20
Rushing offense.....	14	26
Passing offense.....	5	8
Scoring offense.....	11	23
Total defense.....	12	22
Rushing defense.....	10	20
Passing defense.....	11	22
Scoring defense.....	9	18
Takeaways.....	T10	T16
Giveaways.....	T13	T26
Turnover differential.....	14	27
Sacks.....	14	27
Sacks allowed.....	14	28

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

Stadium (capacity): Lambeau Field (59,543); Milwaukee County Stadium (56,051).

Ticket information: Green Bay: 414-496-5719; Milwaukee: 414-342-2717.

Flagship radio station: WTMJ, 620 AM.

Training site: Oneida Street Practice Field/St. Norbert College, Green Bay, Wis.; 414-496-5700.

1991 SCHEDULE

Sept. 1	—PHILADELPHIA	12:00
Sept. 8	—at Detroit	1:00
Sept. 15	—TAMPA BAY	12:00
Sept. 22	—at Miami	1:00
Sept. 29	—at L.A. Rams	1:00
Oct. 6	—DALLAS at Milwaukee	12:00
Oct. 13	—Open date	
Oct. 17	—CHICAGO (Thur.)	6:30
Oct. 27	—at Tampa Bay	1:00
Nov. 3	—at N.Y. Jets	1:00
Nov. 10	—BUFFALO at Milwaukee	12:00
Nov. 17	—MINNESOTA	12:00
Nov. 24	—INDIANAPOLIS at Milwaukee	12:00
Dec. 1	—at Atlanta	1:00
Dec. 8	—at Chicago	12:00
Dec. 15	—DETROIT	12:00
Dec. 21	—at Minnesota (Sat.)	3:00

All times local. All games Sunday unless noted.

1990 RESULTS

Sept. 9	—L.A. RAMS	36-24
Sept. 16	—CHICAGO	13-31
Sept. 23	—KANSAS CITY	3-17
Sept. 30	—at Detroit	24-21
Oct. 7	—at Chicago	13-27
Oct. 14	—at Tampa Bay	14-26
Oct. 21	—Open date	
Oct. 28	—MINNESOTA	24-10
Nov. 4	—SAN FRANCISCO	20-24
Nov. 11	—at L.A. Raiders	29-16
Nov. 18	—at Phoenix	24-21
Nov. 25	—TAMPA BAY	20-10
Dec. 2	—at Minnesota	7-23
Dec. 9	—SEATTLE	14-20
Dec. 16	—at Philadelphia	0-31
Dec. 22	—DETROIT	17-24
Dec. 30	—at Denver	13-22

1990 LEADERS

Scoring (kicking): Chris Jacke, 97 pts. (28/29 PATs, 23/30 FGs).

Scoring (touchdowns): Sterling Sharpe, 36 pts. (6 receiving).

Passing: Don Majkowski, 1,925 yds. (264 att., 150 comp., 56.8%, 10 TDs, 12 int.).

Rushing: Michael Haddix, 311 yds. (98 att., 3.2 avg., 0 TDs).

Receptions: Sterling Sharpe, 67 (1,105 yds., 16.5 avg., 6 TDs).

Interceptions: LeRoy Butler, Jerry Holmes and Mark Murphy, 3.

Tackles: Mark Murphy, 128 (103 solo, 25 assisted).

Sacks: Tim Harris, 7 (26 yds.).

Punting: Don Bracken, 38.0 avg. (64 punts, 2,431 yds., 1 blocked).

Punt returns: Jeff Query, 9.6 avg. (32 att.).

Kickoff returns: Charles Wilson, 22.8 avg. (35 att.).

1990 FANTASY STATISTICS

Statistics included for current members of 1991 roster only.

Name	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING				Defensive TDs	Total TDs
	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	18-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs		
Dilweg	6	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Fontenot	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Greene	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1†	-	1
Haddix	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Jacke	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	2	2	28	-	-
Kemp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Kiel	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Majkowski	4	4	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Patterson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1
Query	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	3
Sharpe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	6
Thompson	-	-	-	-	1	1†	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Tomczak	1	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Weathers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
West	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Woodside	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Workman	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

* fumble recovery. * interception. † blocked punt. ‡ kickoff return.

more mistakes and are less reliable catching the ball than Kemp. Still, one of them could supplant Kemp as the starter. Erik Affholter is rumored to have sure hands, but nagging injuries the last two years have prevented him from playing in his first NFL game. Eighth-round draftee Johnny Walker (Texas) also may contribute.

Ed West is one of the league's best blocking tight ends and a four-year Packer starter. But Harris caught 12 passes in limited duty as a rookie last year and may be Green Bay's best pass-catching tight end since Paul Coffman in the early 1980s.

LINEMEN—You don't always get what you pay for. The Packers had the highest-paid offensive line in the NFL last season (an average salary of \$584,000 among starters and \$522,000 overall) but gave up a league-high and team-record 62 sacks.

There has to be improvement across the line, and it starts with Mandarich, who was penalized more often and allowed more sacks than any other Green Bay lineman. Mandarich recently added more than 20 pounds to his 6-foot-5 frame and should be stronger than he was a year ago. The footwork necessary to become a good pass blocker always has been foreign to Mandarich, but the fact that he isn't an explosive run blocker, either, is a source of concern among the coaches.

Left guard Billy Ard, who star ed ahead of Moran after the latter's hold-out, is expected to retire before the '91 season. Because of salaries in excess of \$600,000 a year, Moran and Hallstrom could be gone if they don't start. Moran, a feisty type, felt he shouldn't have lost his job last year.

Center James Campen, a former Plan B acquisition, graded out as the best of the Green Bay linemen in 1990. Injuries have hindered the development of left tackle Ken Ruettgers, and the loss of reserve tackle Alan Veinograd in Plan B this year will hurt.

It was somewhat surprising that the Packers didn't take an offensive lineman early in the draft, but sixth-round pick Joe Garten (Colorado) may be a sleeper.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—A 3-4 defense doesn't lend itself to a lot of sacks by the down linemen, and the Packers' don't get many. The line combined for 12 sacks in 1990, which was 3½ more than the previous year. But even if they don't actually record a sack, the linemen must put more pressure on the quarterback.

Getting line help has been a top priority in Green Bay for years, so it wasn't surprising when the Packers used two of their first three draft picks on Oregon State nose tackle Esera Tuaolo and Wisconsin end Don Davey. Tuaolo was voted the best defensive lineman in the Pacific-10 Conference his junior year.

Left end Matt Brock, who had four sacks in '90, continues to get bigger and stronger and may have been Green

Bay's most improved player last year.

Right end Robert Brown is a 10-year veteran who has played in the Packers' last 133 non-strike games. He'll likely be challenged for playing time by second-year man Lester Archambeau.

Reserve end Shawn Patterson is the Packers' best pass-rushing lineman, but he hasn't been quite the same after undergoing reconstructive knee surgery in 1989.

LINEBACKERS—Tim Harris is still Green Bay's best linebacker, but he needs help. Because opponents keyed on him so much last year, the Packers often had to use the right outside linebacker only as a decoy, causing his sack total to plummet from 19½ in 1989 to seven last year.

Perhaps help will come from Bennett, who again will battle Scott Stephen for the job at left outside linebacker. Stephen won last year but will be hard pressed to repeat.

Brian Noble, who played well the first half of last year, and Johnny Holland are solid inside linebackers. Reserves such as Burnell Dent and Bryce Paup provide depth.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—Age is creeping into the Packers' secondary, with three of last year's four starters now 33 years old. The selection of Ohio State cornerback Vinnie Clark in the first round last



Troublemaker: Despite a subpar 1990 season, linebacker Tim Harris is still a disruptive force.

spring will add some much-needed speed and youth to the unit.

Clark, however, is not expected to start—at least not right away. He'll play as a nickel back until he's able to

unseat, or the coaches remove, incumbent left corner Mark Lee, a 12-year veteran.

Butler, however, is a good bet to replace another of the Packers' Trio 33, Jerry Holmes, at right corner. The second-year man lacks Clark's speed but probably is a more instinctive player.

Strong safety Mark Murphy, also 33, doesn't make mistakes but is slow-footed. Free safety Chuck Cecil is a talented defender who hits like a Mack truck. Frequent injuries, however, have put the truck in the shop for long durations.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Chris Jacke is coming off another successful season (23 for 30 on field-goal attempts) and again will be the Packer place-kicker. The same job assurance, however, can't be given to punter Don Bracken, whose 38-yard average ranked near the bottom of the league a year ago. Jeff Fite, a fifth-round draft pick from Memphis State, will be given every opportunity to unseat Bracken.

Query, with a 9.6-yard average last season, and Wilson, at 22.8, provide Green Bay with bona fide threats in both punt and kickoff returning, respectively.



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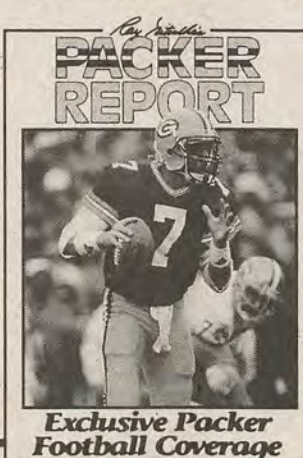
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By RAY RICHARDSON
St. Paul Pioneer Press

There is a perception around the National Football League—maybe it's an excuse—that the Minnesota Vikings could win a Super Bowl if they ever found a way to focus on football. Every year, the theory goes, the team is burdened by so many off-field distractions that the games seem insignificant.

Last year, for instance, a debate raged over how to best use running back Herschel Walker, for whom the Vikings paid a king's ransom to Dallas one year earlier. Major injuries to quarterback Wade Wilson and defensive tackle Keith Millard crippled the club on both sides of the ball.

Place-kicker Donald Igwebuike was indicted on (and later acquitted of) heroin smuggling charges. And longtime general manager Mike Lynn announced his resignation in midseason.

Before departing, Lynn, who had ruled the club for 17 years, turned over part of the reins to Jeff Diamond, who assumes the role of vice president/general manager. He also named Roger Headrick to serve as club president and chief executive officer. Headrick has balanced budgets for big corporations but has yet to work for a professional sports franchise. It shouldn't take him long to discover that the Vikings aren't your normal pro sports team.

"It seems like it's always something



Super safety: Joey Browner, a six-time Pro Bowler, led the Vikings with seven interceptions a year ago.

with us," strong safety Joey Browner said. "It would be nice to go through a season where all we have to do is deal with football. Sometimes you wonder if it's possible."

COACHING

The Vikings have been huge under-achievers the last few seasons. They bombed last year after putting an NFL-high 12 players in the Pro Bowl in 1989, which leads some observers to think the team's problems aren't its players, but its coaches.

Jerry Burns, the league's oldest coach at 64, almost quit after last year's 1-6 start but didn't want to end his 25-year NFL coaching career on a losing note. His name was at the top of the most-likely-to-be-fired lists for most of the year, but he somehow managed to avoid the ax despite the Vikings' 6-10 season, which included losing streaks of five and four games.

Burns, however, showed no such reluctance in giving the ax to offensive coordinator Bob Schnelker and defensive coordinator Floyd Peters after the season.

Tom Moore, who shared offensive duties with Schnelker, will assume complete control in 1991. Monte Kiffin, the New York Jets' linebackers coach last season, replaces Peters.

Marc Trestman, who served as an administrative assistant last year, was elevated to quarterbacks coach. Trestman had mild input in the offense a year ago, but Burns believes the team needs a full-time quarterbacks coach.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—If this is Burns' last year with the Vikings—he's in the final year of his contract—he'd like to go through it without a quarterback controversy.

Health permitting, the No. 1 man will be 11-year veteran Wade Wilson, who was off to a hot start last year before suffering torn thumb ligaments and a shoulder separation in the third game. Those injuries forced Burns to call on Rich Gannon, who started 12 games and finished the year as the third-worst-rated passer (68.9 rating points) in the NFC. Gannon, entering his fifth pro season in 1991, had never started an NFL game before last season, and his inexperience showed.

RUNNING BACKS—Walker is clearly the key player here. He has never come close to matching the 148-yard rushing performance he had in his first game with the Vikings in October 1989, and inconsistency is a big problem. He has had some good and some very bad games in a Minnesota uniform.

Walker blames the Vikings' system for his problems and claims he hasn't been used properly. Burns responds by saying the team will emphasize the one-back offense more this season to make Walker more comfortable.

Despite his 1990 difficulties, Walker still set a club record with 2,051 combined yards rushing, receiving and returning kicks.

A one-back set might mean less play-

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: The pass catchers. Wide receivers Anthony Carter, Hassan Jones and Cris Carter and tight end Steve Jordan will terrorize opposing secondaries if the Minnesota quarterback can get the ball to them.

Weaknesses: There's little depth at running back. An injury to Herschel Walker would be catastrophic.

Key to success: Making Walker more productive in the one-back offense. This team will become much less volatile once Walker is doing his thing.

Sure sign of trouble: If quarterback Wade Wilson gets hurt again and Rich Gannon is no better than he was in 1990.

That's a fact: The Vikings have not won a game played in an open-air stadium since winning at Tampa Bay, 24-10, on November 12, 1989. The first two games of 1991 are at Chicago and Atlanta, both open-air stadiums.

Coach Jerry Burns says: "Last year was very tough on our team mentally. We had too many outside problems. We'll find out pretty quick if we can turn things around." (Six of the Vikings' first nine games are on the road.)

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	A. Carter	Reed	W. Walker
LT	Zimmerman	Habib	
LG	McDaniel	Schreiber	Neely
C	Lowdermilk	Foote	Thome
RG	Kalis	Schreiber	Wolfley
RT	Irwin	Habib	Daniels
TE	Jordan	Novoselsky	M. Jones
FL	H. Jones	C. Carter	Lewis
QB	Wilson	Gannon	Salisbury
FB	Anderson	Smith	Fenney
RB	H. Walker	Allen	Dozier

DEFENSE

LE	Noga	Randle	Johnson
LT	Clarke	Strauthers	Millard
RT	Thomas	Westbrooks	Reagan
RE	Doleman	Randle	Strauthers
LOLB	Dusabek	Williams	Kirksey
MLB	Berry	Manusky	Vanderbeek
ROLB	Merriweather	Jenkins	Kirksey
LCB	Lee	Hampton	Mims
RCB	Rutland	McMillian	Scott
SS	Browner	Wilcots	Stills
FS	Fullington	Wright	Eilers

SPECIALISTS

K	Igwebuike	Reveiz	
P	Newsome		
KR	W. Walker	Owens	H. Walker
PR	Owens	W. Walker	A. Carter

ing time for veterans Rick Fenney and Alfred Anderson. The Vikings also will give a long look to Terry Allen, who missed his 1990 rookie season because of a knee injury.

RECEIVERS—Anthony Carter, Hassan Jones and Cris Carter are as good as any trio of wide receivers in the NFL. Tight end Steve Jordan has played in five straight Pro Bowls.

As a group, they caught 193 passes for 2,867 yards in 1990, totals that no doubt would have been higher with a more experienced quarterback at the controls.

The passing game will not be slighted in the one-back offense. The third-round selection of Grambling State receiver Jake Reed is an indication of that. Reed has big-play potential and the speed (4.4 seconds over 40 yards) to go deep.

LINEMEN—The starting unit of tackles Gary Zimmerman and Tim Irwin, guards Randall McDaniel and Todd Kalis and center Kirk Lowdermilk have a combined 32 years of NFL experience. In 1990, those five players accounted for 75 of a possible 80 starts.

Irwin, the elder statesman of the group at 32, leads active Vikings with 140 games played and 133 consecutive starts. Zimmerman and McDaniel have played in the Pro Bowl.

Depth, however, may be a concern. Brian Habib, Chris Foote, Adam Schreiber and Craig Wolfley are the veteran backups. The Vikings drafted University of Minnesota center Chris Thome, considered the nation's second-best collegian at that position last fall, in the fifth round.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—The Vikings' down linemen had a difficult time last season adjusting to better blocking schemes by the opposition. And it showed: Minnesota's sack total plummeted from a league-leading 71 in 1989 to 47.

Chris Doleman, the NFL leader with 21 sacks in '89, had 11 last season. The Vikings' other end, Al Noga, dropped from 11½ to six. Stopping the run in 1990 also was a big problem.

Most of the difficulties stemmed from the loss of Millard, who suffered major knee ligament damage in the fourth week and missed the rest of the season. His status for 1991 remains uncertain, and without him the Vikings' line could struggle again.

Nose tackle Henry Thomas had a splendid season, ranking fourth on the club with 109 tackles and second in sacks with 8½. Veteran Ken Clarke should man the other tackle spot.

LINEBACKERS—Scott Studwell's retirement after 14 seasons in Minnesota has opened up the middle linebacking job for Ray Berry, who waited five years for the opportunity. The wait wasn't always patient.

Berry walked out of camp last summer in a salary dispute. He knew his playing time would increase as Stud-

1991 MINNESOTA VIKINGS ROSTER

	HL./WT.	Born	NFL Exp.	College	How acq.	'90 Games GP/GS
QUARTERBACKS						
Gannon, Rich	6-3/202	12-20-65	5	Delaware	T-NE/87	14/12
Salisbury, Sean	6-5/208	3-9-63	4	Southern California	FA/90	0/0
Wilson, Wade	6-3/210	2-1-59	11	East Texas State	D8/81	6/4
RUNNING BACKS						
Allen, Terry	5-10/210	2-21-68	1	Clemson	D9/90	IR
Anderson, Alfred	6-1/214	8-4-61	7	Baylor	D3/84	11/6
Baldwin, Randy	5-10/216	8-19-67	R	Mississippi	D4/91	—
Dozier, D.J.	6-0/205	9-21-65	5	Penn State	D1/87	6/1
Fenney, Rick	6-1/231	12-7-64	5	Washington	D8/87	12/5
Hudson, Gerald	5-8/199	5-13-68	R	Oklahoma State	D9/91	—
Smith, Cedric	5-10/223	5-27-68	2	Florida	D5a/90	15/1
Walker, Herschel	6-1/225	3-3-62	6	Georgia	T-Dal/89	16/16
RECEIVERS						
Carter, Anthony	5-11/178	9-17-60	7	Michigan	T-Mia/85	15/14
Carter, Cris	6-3/200	11-25-65	5	Ohio State	W-Phi/90	16/5
Hughes, Darren	5-10/172	6-3-67	R	Carson-Newman (Tenn.)	D12/91	—
Jones, Hassan	6-0/195	7-2-64	6	Florida State	D5/86	15/10
Jones, Mike (TE)	6-3/255	11-10-66	2	Texas A&M	D3/90	11/0
Jordan, Steve (TE)	6-4/240	1-10-61	10	Brown	D7/82	16/16
Lewis, Leo	5-8/166	9-17-56	10	Missouri	FA/81	†14/0
Novoselsky, Brent (TE)	6-2/238	1-8-66	4	Pennsylvania	FA/89	16/3
Pruitt, James	6-3/201	1-29-64	6	Cal State Fullerton	PlanB/91	*6/0
Reed, Jake	6-3/216	9-28-67	R	Grambling State	D3a/91	—
Walker, Wayne	5-8/162	12-27-66	2	Texas Tech	PlanB/91	IR
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Foote, Chris (C)	6-4/266	12-2-56	9	Southern California	T-NYG/87	16/3
Habib, Brian (T)	6-7/288	12-2-64	3	Washington	D10/88	16/0
Irwin, Tim (T)	6-8/295	12-13-58	11	Tennessee	D3/81	16/16
Kalis, Todd (G)	6-5/286	5-10-65	4	Arizona State	D4/88	15/14
Lowdermilk, Kirk (C)	6-3/263	4-10-63	7	Ohio State	D3/85	15/13
McDaniel, Randall (G)	6-3/270	12-19-64	4	Arizona State	D1/88	16/16
Pierce, Brady (T)	6-6/291	9-2-67	R	Wisconsin	D10/91	—
Schreiber, Adam (C/G)	6-4/288	2-20-62	8	Texas	PlanB/90	16/0
Thome, Chris (C)	6-4/285	1-15-69	R	Minnesota	D5/91	—
Wolfley, Craig (G)	6-1/277	5-19-58	12	Syracuse	PlanB/90	8/2
Zimmerman, Gary (T)	6-6/283	12-13-61	6	Oregon	T-NYG/86	16/16
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Clarke, Ken (T)	6-2/280	8-28-56	13	Syracuse	FA/89	12/10
Doleman, Chris (E)	6-5/263	10-16-61	7	Pittsburgh	D1/85	16/16
Hammerstein, Mike (T)	6-4/272	3-3-63	5	Michigan	PlanB/91	*15/2
Johnson, Reggie (E)	6-2/247	12-11-67	R	Arizona	D8/91	—
Millard, Keith (T)	6-5/263	3-18-62	7	Washington State	D1/84	4/4
Randle, John (E)	6-1/248	12-12-67	2	Texas A&I	FA/90	16/0
Reagan, Scott (T)	6-4/274	7-29-67	R	Humboldt State (Calif.)	D7/91	—
Strauthers, Thomas (E)	6-4/262	4-6-61	8	Jackson State	PlanB/89	13/2
Thomas, Henry (NT)	6-2/268	1-12-65	5	Louisiana State	D3/87	16/16
LINEBACKERS						
Berry, Ray	6-2/226	10-28-63	5	Baylor	D2/87	16/3
Caesar, Ivan	6-1/241	1-7-67	R	Boston College	D11/91	—
Dusabek, Mark	6-3/230	6-23-64	3	Minnesota	FA/89	14/11
Jenkins, Carlos	6-3/222	7-12-68	R	Michigan State	D3/91	—
Kirksey, William	6-2/221	1-29-66	2	Southern Mississippi	FA/91	9/0
Manusky, Greg	6-1/242	8-12-66	4	Colgate	PlanB/91	*16/8
Merrileather, Mike	6-2/222	11-26-60	9	Pacific	T-Pit/89	16/16
Vanderbeek, Matt	6-3/246	8-16-67	2	Michigan State	PlanB/91	*16/7
Williams, Jimmy	6-3/225	11-15-60	10	Nebraska	W-Det/90	*14/9
DEFENSIVE BACKS						
Browner, Joey (S)	6-2/228	5-15-60	9	Southern California	D1/83	16/16
Eilers, Pat (S)	5-11/195	9-3-66	2	Notre Dame	FA/90	8/0
Fullington, Darrell (S)	6-1/195	4-17-64	4	Miami (Fla.)	D5/88	16/11
Hampton, Alonzo (CB)	5-10/191	1-19-67	2	Pittsburgh	D4/90	10/0
Lee, Carl (CB)	6-0/184	4-6-61	9	Marshall	D7/83	16/16
McMillian, Audrey (CB)	6-0/189	8-13-62	6	Houston	PlanB/89	15/2
Mims, Carl (CB)	5-10/180	10-28-65	2	Sam Houston State	PlanB/91	IR
Rutland, Reggie (CB)	6-1/192	6-20-64	5	Georgia Tech	D4/87	16/16
Scott, Todd (CB)	5-10/204	1-23-68	R	Southwestern Louisiana	D6/91	—
Stills, Ken (S)	5-10/186	9-6-63	7	Wisconsin	PlanB/90	12/3
Welborne, Tripp (S)	6-0/205	11-20-68	R	Michigan	D7a/91	—
Wilcots, Solomon (S)	5-11/195	10-3-64	5	Colorado	PlanB/91	*16/10
Wright, Felix (S)	6-2/195	6-22-59	7	Drake (Ia.)	PlanB/91	*16/16
SPECIALISTS						
Igwebuike, Donald (K)	5-9/184	12-27-60	7	Clemson	W-TB/90	8/0
Newsome, Harry (P)	6-0/188	1-25-63	7	Wake Forest	PlanB/90	16/0
Reveiz, Fuad (K)	5-11/216	2-24-63	7	Tennessee	FA/90	†13/0

OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP

Chris Cochrane, QB; Greg Daniels, G; David Fair, RB; Frank Griffin, TE; Glen Neely, G; Terry Obee, WR; Anthony Owens, WR; David Westbrooks, DT.

*Not with Vikings in 1990.

†Includes totals with both Vikings and another NFL team in 1990.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

DID YOU KNOW...

...that Grambling State Coach Eddie Robinson, who has made the wing-T offense famous, was first introduced to that formation by Jerry Burns when the latter was coach at Iowa from 1961 through '65?

Continued

COACHES

Head coach: Jerry Burns.
Assistant coaches:
 Tom Moore (assistant head coach/offensive coordinator).
 Marc Trestman (quarterbacks).
 John Michels (offensive line).
 Dick Rehbein (wide receivers).
 John Brunner (running backs).
 Tom Batta (tight ends/special teams).
 Monte Kiffin (defensive coordinator).
 Paul Wiggins (defensive line).
 Maxie Baughan (linebackers).
 Jerry Brown (secondary).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1990 regular-season record: 6-10 (5th in NFC Central); 3-5 in division; 4-8 in conference; 4-4 at home; 2-6 on road.

1990 playoff record: None.

Burns' regular-season record: 44-35 in five seasons with Vikings.

Burns' postseason record: 3-3 in three playoffs with Vikings.

Team record last five years: 44-35 (.557, ranks T9th in league in that span).

1990 team rankings:	NFC	NFL
Total offense.....	6	12
Rushing offense.....	7	15
Passing offense.....	6	11
Scoring offense.....	5	9
Total defense.....	6	13
Rushing defense.....	11	21
Passing defense.....	2	3
Scoring defense.....	8	16
Takeaways.....	T6	T9
Giveaways.....	10	23
Turnover differential.....	11	T18
Sacks.....	1	3
Sacks allowed.....	11	23

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

Stadium (capacity): Metrodome (63,000).
Ticket information: 612-333-8828.
Flagship radio station: WOGY, 1130 AM.
Training site: Mankato State University, Mankato, Minn.; 612-828-6500.

1991 SCHEDULE

Sept. 1—at Chicago	3:00
Sept. 8—at Atlanta	1:00
Sept. 15—SAN FRANCISCO	12:00
Sept. 22—at New Orleans	12:00
Sept. 29—DENVER	7:00
Oct. 6—at Detroit	1:00
Oct. 13—PHOENIX	12:00
Oct. 20—at New England	1:00
Oct. 27—at Phoenix	2:00
Nov. 3—TAMPA BAY	12:00
Nov. 11—CHICAGO (Mon.)	8:00
Nov. 17—at Green Bay	12:00
Nov. 24—DETROIT	12:00
Dec. 1—Open date	
Dec. 8—at Tampa Bay	8:00
Dec. 15—L.A. RAMS	12:00
Dec. 21—GREEN BAY (Sat.)	3:00

All times local. All games Sunday unless noted.

1990 RESULTS

Sept. 9—at Kansas City	21-24
Sept. 16—NEW ORLEANS	32-3
Sept. 23—at Chicago	16-19
Sept. 30—TAMPA BAY (OT)	20-23
Oct. 7—DETROIT	27-34
Oct. 15—at Philadelphia	24-32
Oct. 21—Open date	
Oct. 28—at Green Bay	10-24
Nov. 4—DENVER	27-22
Nov. 11—at Detroit	17-7
Nov. 18—at Seattle	24-21
Nov. 25—CHICAGO	41-13
Dec. 2—GREEN BAY	23-7
Dec. 9—at N.Y. Giants	15-23
Dec. 16—at Tampa Bay	13-26
Dec. 22—L.A. RAIDERS	24-28
Dec. 30—SAN FRANCISCO	17-20

1990 LEADERS

Scoring (kicking): Donald Igwebuike, 61 pts. (19/19 PATs, 14/16 FGs).
Scoring (touchdowns): Herschel Walker, 54 pts. (5 rushing, 4 receiving).
Passing: Rich Gannon, 2,278 yds. (349 att., 182 comp., 52.1%, 16 TDs, 16 int.).
Rushing: Herschel Walker, 770 yds. (184 att., 4.2 avg., 5 TDs).
Receptions: Anthony Carter, 70 (1,008 yds., 14.4 avg., 8 TDs).
Interceptions: Joey Browner, 7 (103 yds., 1 TD).
Tackles: Mike Merriweather, 153 (99 solo, 54 assisted).
Sacks: Chris Doleman, 11 (65 yds.).
Punting: Harry Newsome, 42.3 avg. (78 punts).
Punt returns: Leo Lewis, 7.2 avg. (25 att., 180 yds., 0 TDs).
Kickoff returns: Herschel Walker, 22.0 avg. (44 att., 966 yds., 0 TDs).

1990 FANTASY STATISTICS

Statistics included for current members of 1991 roster only.

Name	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING				Defensive TDs	Total TDs
	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	16-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs		
Anderson	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Browner	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1
A. Carter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	8
C. Carter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	3
Fenney	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Gannon	5	5	6	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
Igwebuike	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	3	-	19	-	-
H. Jones	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	7
Jordan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Merriweather	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1
Pruitt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Reveiz	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	4	-	26	-	-
H. Walker	-	-	-	-	4	-	1	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Williams	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1
Wilson	3	5	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9

* fumble recovery. * interception.

well's diminished, and he wanted to be paid accordingly.

With the money issue resolved, Berry becomes a key player. The coaches avoided the temptation of going exclusively to a 3-4 defense in order to utilize Berry's talents in the middle of the 4-3. Berry was third on the team in tackles (118) last season and earned the respect of his teammates with his play calling.

The Vikings' best linebacker is ninth-year veteran Mike Merriweather, who led the team in tackles with 153 and was, by far, the team's best defensive player. He deserved, but was denied, a fourth Pro Bowl trip.

The identity of the third starting linebacker is a mystery. The Vikings signed former Redskin Greg Manusky and former Colt Mark Vanderbeek as Plan B free agents and used their top draft pick (a third-rounder) on Michigan State's Carlos Jenkins. Those three players will duel incumbent Mark Dusbabek, who started 11 games last season, for an outside post.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—Some football statistics are almost worthless. The Vikings' secondary was burned repeatedly for big plays throughout the 1990 season—yet finished the year ranked as the NFL's third-toughest team against the pass. Go figure.

One certainty in 1991 is that change is in order. The competition for jobs could be fierce. Minnesota signed three defensive backs in Plan B and took two in the draft.

One player whose job is assured is Browner, a six-time Pro Bowler who was the Vikings' interception leader with seven last year. But Browner was about the only defensive back who seemed capable of picking off enemy passes. Merriweather had more interceptions (three) than seven of Minnesota's nine defensive backs.

Among the contenders for starting posts are cornerbacks Carl Lee and Reggie Rutland and safety Darrell Fullington.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The best news is that Igwebuike's legal problems are behind him. He was welcomed back after his acquittal in April.

Igwebuike enters camp as the No. 1 place-kicker, but the team went ahead and re-signed Fuad Reveiz for the 1991 season anyway. Reveiz made 11 of 12 field-goal attempts in Igwebuike's absence.

Punter Harry Newsome dropped a snap at Chicago that cost the Vikings a victory last season. He heard boos for a while but finished the season with a 42.3-yard average, fifth in the NFC.

Herschel Walker was the Vikings' No. 1 man on kickoff returns last year, but rookie speedsters Anthony Owens and Terry Obee and Plan B signee Wayne Walker may get the opportunity to return kicks.



Can new Buc coaches discard old losing ways?

By NICK PUGLIESE
Tampa Tribune

If a team can change its fortunes by changing its coaches, then followers of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers may be in store for something different in 1991.

The Bucs, who haven't won more than half their games in any non-strike season since 1981, have made changes both in the front office and on the field. Gone is former coach Ray Perkins, who was fired last December after winning only 19 of 60 games in almost four years at the helm.

The new coach is Richard Williamson, who was interim coach for three games last year following Perkins' dismissal. At the February 4 press conference announcing Williamson's full-time appointment, Buc's Owner Hugh Culverhouse also named longtime aide Phil Krueger as the first general manager in Tampa Bay's 16-year history. Perkins had held the equivalent power of both jobs during his Tampa Bay tenure and, his critics said, spread himself so thin that he did neither job well.

Another criticism leveled at Perkins was that he surrounded himself with a group of assistants whose resumes leaned more toward college football than the National Football League. Accordingly, Williamson has hired Hank Kuhlmann and Floyd Peters as his offensive and defensive coordinators, re-



Unfulfilled expectations: Everyone agrees that it's time for Vinny Testaverde to play to his potential.

spectively. Kuhlmann and Peters have a combined 30 years of NFL coaching experience. In fact, the 13 assistants on the Tampa Bay staff have more than 180 years of coaching experience, including 72 in the NFL.

"This is a group that knows what it is doing," Williamson said.

Of course, in the NFL, it's good to have players who know what they're doing, too.

COACHING

Many critics said Culverhouse took the cheap and easy way out when he chose Williamson over other candidates such as then-Giants defensive coordinator Bill Belichick (now Cleveland's head coach) and former Eagles coach Buddy Ryan. Williamson, however, had the respect of the players, and he convinced Culverhouse that he would put together a strong, experienced staff.

One of the first things the new coaches did was completely revamp the offense and defense. Ripped for being too conservative and predictable in the past, the Tampa Bay offense will feature shifting at the line of scrimmage and a more frequent use of a three-receiver set. Tailback Gary Anderson often will line up in the slot, and fullback Reggie Cobb has been switched to tailback.

Defensively, the Bucs will play a 4-3 defense for the first time in their history. Peters, the first assistant Williamson hired, is known for building great pass-rushing lines. The only reason Peters was available was because the Minnesota Vikings needed a scapegoat for a disappointing 1990 season and made him a fall guy.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—The biggest challenge facing the new Tampa Bay coaches will be developing Vinny Testaverde into the thoroughbred player everyone thought he was when the Bucs drafted him first overall in 1987. Everyone agrees it's time for the former Heisman Trophy winner from Miami (Fla.) to play to his potential.

Testaverde was benched twice last season because of injuries and inconsistency, but he enters this season as the Bucs' undisputed No. 1 quarterback. Perhaps the absence of the intense Perkins and Williamson's more relaxed demeanor will help Testaverde silence his skeptics.

Chris Chandler, who was acquired from the Indianapolis Colts at the cost of a No. 1 draft pick last summer, started three games last year but offered little proof that he can supplant Testaverde. He seems content with his backup role.

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: Gary Anderson and Reggie Cobb provide a solid 1-2 punch at tailback. The receiving corps is deep and talented. Place-kicker Steve Christie is as steady as they come.

Weaknesses: The defense. New defensive coordinator Floyd Peters has his work cut out for him. The front four looks shaky despite massive reshuffling, and depth at linebacker could be a problem. The Bucs also need speed at safety.

Key to success: Testaverde finally becoming a top-notch NFL quarterback. The excuses of the past—Ray Perkins' overbearing manner, the lack of an experienced quarterbacks coach, Testaverde's youth—no longer apply.

Sure sign of trouble: A slow start. That is certain to bring out the boo birds and ignite talk that Coach Richard Williamson, who has just a two-year contract, will stay in Tampa Bay only as long as it takes Owner Hugh Culverhouse to lure former Giants coach Bill Parcells to town.

That's a fact: The Bucs had 10 turnovers in their six victories and 33 turnovers in their 10 losses in 1990.

Coach Richard Williamson says: "I believe you can't do anything without a strong kicking game and defense. Offensively, I believe in the passing game, but I also believe you have to be flexible. You can't live by the pass alone if they don't respect your run."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Carrier	Drewrey	Ford
LT	Gruber	Bax	
LG	McHale	Dill	Ryan
C	Grimes	Mayberry	Vargo
RG	Beckles	Bruhin	
RT	R. Taylor	McRae	
TE	Ro. Hall	J. Anderson	E. Thomas
WR	Hill	Peebles	Dawsey
QB	Testaverde	Chandler	Carlson
RB	G. Anderson	Cobb	Harvey
FB	Lawson	Wilson	Perkins

DEFENSE

LE	Davis	Seals	
LT	Skow	Jones	
RT	Newton	Rh. Hall	Sunvold
RE	McCants	Robertson	White
LOLB	Murphy	Tiggle	
MLB	Marve	Randle	Anno
ROLB	B. Thomas	Bagsby	
LCB	Reynolds	Everett	
RCB	Haddix	Rice	
SS	Robinson	Reed	Covington
FS	Hamilton	Frizzell	Carter

SPECIALISTS

K	Christie		
P	Royals		
KR	T. Taylor	G. Anderson	Drewrey
PR	T. Taylor	Drewrey	Carrier

Continued

COACHES

Head coach: Richard Williamson.
Assistant coaches:
 Jeff Fitzgerald (defensive assistant).
 Ray Hamilton (defensive line assistant).
 Tim Harkness (receivers).
 Kent Johnson (strength and conditioning).
 Hank Kuhlmann (offensive coordinator/running backs).
 Dale Lindsey (linebackers).
 Alan Lowry (special teams/tight ends).
 Carl Mauck (offensive line).
 Floyd Peters (defensive coordinator/defensive line).
 Tom Schertz (offensive assistant).
 Steve Shafer (defensive backs).
 Morris Watts (quarterbacks).
 Richard Wood (defensive assistant).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1990 regular-season record: 6-10 (2nd in NFC Central); 5-3 in division; 6-8 in conference; 4-4 at home; 2-6 on road.

1990 playoff record: None.

Williamson's regular-season record: First year as NFL head coach.

Team record last five years: 22-57 (.278, ranks 28th in league in that span).

1990 team rankings:	NFC	NFL
Total offense.....	13	24
Rushing offense.....	10	19
Passing offense.....	9	17
Scoring offense.....	13	25
Total defense.....	13	24
Rushing defense.....	12	25
Passing defense.....	8	18
Scoring defense.....	11	22
Takeaways.....	2nd	T3
Giveaways.....	T13	T26
Turnover differential.....	T7	T12
Sacks.....	10	T17
Sacks allowed.....	13	26

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

Stadium (capacity): Tampa Stadium (74,296).

Ticket information: 813-870-2700.

Flagship radio station: WQYK, 99.5 FM.

Training site: University of Tampa, Tampa, Fla.; 813-253-6215.

1991 SCHEDULE

Sept. 1—	at N.Y. Jets	1:00
Sept. 8—	CHICAGO	1:00
Sept. 15—	at Green Bay	12:00
Sept. 22—	BUFFALO	4:00
Sept. 29—	at Detroit	1:00
Oct. 6—	PHILADELPHIA	1:00
Oct. 13—	Open date	
Oct. 20—	at New Orleans	12:00
Oct. 27—	GREEN BAY	1:00
Nov. 3—	at Minnesota	12:00
Nov. 10—	DETROIT	1:00
Nov. 17—	at Atlanta	1:00
Nov. 24—	N.Y. GIANTS	1:00
Dec. 1—	at Miami	1:00
Dec. 8—	MINNESOTA	8:00
Dec. 14—	at Chicago (Sat.)	11:30
Dec. 22—	INDIANAPOLIS	1:00

All times local.

All games Sunday unless noted.

1990 RESULTS

Sept. 9—	at Detroit	38-21
Sept. 16—	L.A. RAMS	14-35
Sept. 23—	DETROIT	23-20
Sept. 30—	at Minnesota (OT)	23-20
Oct. 7—	at Dallas	10-14
Oct. 14—	GREEN BAY	26-14
Oct. 21—	DALLAS	13-17
Oct. 28—	at San Diego	10-41
Nov. 4—	CHICAGO	6-26
Nov. 11—	at New Orleans	7-35
Nov. 18—	at San Francisco	7-31
Nov. 25—	at Green Bay	10-20
Dec. 2—	ATLANTA	23-17
Dec. 9—	Open date	
Dec. 16—	MINNESOTA	26-13
Dec. 23—	at Chicago	14-27
Dec. 30—	N.Y. JETS	14-16

1990 LEADERS

Scoring (kicking): Steve Christie, 96 pts. (27/27 PATs, 23/27 FGs).

Scoring (touchdowns): Gary Anderson, 30 pts. (3 rushing, 2 receiving); Bruce Hill, 30 pts. (5 receiving).

Passing: Vinny Testaverde, 2,818 yds. (365 att., 203 comp., 55.6%, 17 TDs, 18 int.).

Rushing: Gary Anderson, 646 yds. (166 att., 3.9 avg., 3 TDs).

Receptions: Mark Carrier, 49 (813 yds., 16.6 avg., 4 TDs).

Interceptions: Wayne Haddix, 7 (231 yds., 3 TDs).

Tackles: Harry Hamilton, 119 (81 solo, 38 assisted).

Sacks: Broderick Thomas, 7.5.

Punting: Mark Royals, 40.3 avg. (72 punts, 2,902 yds., 0 blocked).

Punt returns: Willie Drewrey, 8.0 avg. (23 att., 184 yds., 0 TDs).

Kickoff returns: Danny Peebles, 20.5 avg. (18 att., 369 yds., 0 TDs).

1990 FANTASY STATISTICS

Statistics included for current members of 1991 roster only.

Name	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING				Defensive TDs	Total TDs
	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	18-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs		
G. Anderson	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Carrier	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	4
Chandler	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Christie	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	4	2	27	-	-
Cobb	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Drewrey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Frizzell	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	-	1
Ro. Hall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Haddix	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3*	-	3
Harvey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Hill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	5
Peebles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Perkins	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Testaverde	7	6	4	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18

* interception.

Second-year player Jeff Carlson currently is the No. 3 quarterback, but the Bucs are high on 10th-round draft pick Pat O'Hara. O'Hara, a former starter at Southern California, has recovered from the knee injury that blitzed his college career and was zinging the ball at the Bucs' mini-camp in May. If Carlson and O'Hara show promise during the preseason, Chandler could be on the trading block.

RUNNING BACKS—The Bucs learned two things here last year: that you cannot run Anderson through the line 25 times a game and that Cobb is not a fullback. Thus, Anderson, who tailed off drastically in the second half of 1990, and Cobb will alternate at tailback. Anderson also will line up as a receiver more often.

The search for a big, blocking fullback led Tampa Bay to re-sign Jamie Lawson in Plan B and draft Texas A&M's Robert Wilson in the third round. Lawson was waived by Tampa Bay halfway through last season before finishing up with New England.

RECEIVERS—This is the Bucs' best position. Mark Carrier and Bruce Hill have been the starting wide receivers the last three years and have combined for an average of 1,853 yards per season over that span.

Third-round draft pick Lawrence Dawsey (Florida State) should see playing time when the Bucs use a three-wideout formation. Danny Peebles, a second-round draft pick in 1989, has spent more time on the injured reserve list than on the field his first two seasons. It's time for him to prove he's not one of those track stars who has no business playing professional football.

Ron Hall has quietly become one of the NFL's best tight ends. He caught 31 passes for 464 yards last year and is an excellent blocker.

LINEMEN—As soon as No. 1 draft choice Charles McRae of Tennessee replaces Rob Taylor at right tackle and second-year man Tony Mayberry bumps Randy Grimes at center, the Buccaneers will have a line that should remain intact for most of the 1990s.

Left tackle Paul Gruber, a first-round pick in 1988, and right guard Ian Beckles, who started all 16 games as a rookie in 1990, are solid. Left guard Tom McHale missed eight games with a knee injury but can hold his own when healthy. If not, the coaching staff likes Tim Ryan, a fifth-round pick from Notre Dame who also can play center.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—With the move to a four-man front, the Bucs were in the market for tackles and ends during the off-season. They re-signed Ray Seals and Robb White, plucked Marlon Jones and Derrell Robertson off the Plan B list and drafted Rhett Hall (California) and Mike Sunvold (Minnesota).

The player under the microscope in 1991, however, is Keith McCants, who

played sparingly as a rookie last year before starting the final four games at right outside linebacker. McCants will move to right end this year, and Tampa Bay fans can only hope his conversion goes as well as Chris Doleman's similar transition did under Peters with Minnesota in 1985.

Jim Skow, who started 10 games at end last year, will shift to left tackle in the new alignment and play alongside right tackle Tim Newton, who played on the nose in 1990. Reuben Davis will start opposite McCants at left end.

Don't be surprised if the Bucs supplement the 4-3 with the 3-4 on occasion and blitz more as well.

LINEBACKERS—Like McCants, this also figures to be a big year for Broderick Thomas, another former No. 1 pick who will step into the vacant outside linebacker spot and play behind McCants on the right side. Thomas had 7½ sacks and a team-leading 33 quarterback pressures last year.

Kevin Murphy will start at left outside linebacker while two other veterans, Eugene Marve and Ervin Randle, split time in the middle. Marve led Buc linebackers with 111 tackles in 1990 and Randle had a career-best 5½ sacks.

Depth might be a problem. The Bucs drafted three linebackers and signed free-agent rookie Maurice Crum, who was not drafted despite being the Miami Hurricanes' leading tackler the last three seasons.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—The Buccaneers can't expect Wayne Haddix to repeat the fabulous success he had last year, but they can hope. Haddix, an unheralded free agent, started every game at right cornerback, returned three of his seven interceptions for touchdowns and made the Pro Bowl. He and Ricky Reynolds give the Bucs two solid starting cornerbacks.

The starting safeties will be Harry Hamilton and Mark Robinson, the Bucs' top two tacklers last year. Both Penn State products, however, will turn 29 during the '91 season, and neither has blazing speed. William Frizzell, a nickel back at Philadelphia last year, was signed as a Plan B free agent. Tony Covington and Marty Carter were taken in the draft in an effort to add some speed and youth at safety.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Rookie place-kicker Steve Christie surprised everyone last year when he converted 23 of 27 field-goal attempts and was voted the Bucs' most valuable player after making the team as a free agent. Punter Mark Royals slumped in the second half but still averaged 40.3 yards per kick.

Willie Drewrey and Peebles handled the bulk of the kick returning a year ago, but the coaches hope Treamelle Taylor, a 5-foot-10, 175-pound speedster from Nevada, can handle both jobs this year.



1991 TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL Exp.	College	How acq.	'90 Games GP/GS
Carlson, Jeff	6-3/215	5-23-66	2	Weber State	FA/90	1/0
Chandler, Chris	6-4/220	10-12-65	4	Washington	T-Ind/90	7/3
O'Hara, Pat	6-3/205	9-27-68	R	Southern California	D10/91	—
Testaverde, Vinny	6-5/215	11-13-63	5	Miami (Fla.)	D1/87	14/13
RUNNING BACKS						
Anderson, Gary	6-1/190	4-18-61	6	Arkansas	T-SD/90	16/13
Cobb, Reggie	6-0/225	7-7-68	2	Tennessee	D2/90	16/13
Harvey, John	5-11/185	12-28-66	2	Texas-El Paso	FA/90	16/1
Hickson, Hyland	5-9/220	2-25-69	R	Michigan State	D10a/91	—
Lawson, Jamie	5-10/240	10-2-65	3	Nicholls State	PlanB/91	†7/0
Perkins, Bruce	6-2/230	8-14-67	2	Arizona State	FA/90	16/3
Wilson, Robert (FB)	6-0/240	1-13-69	R	Texas A&M	D3a/91	—
RECEIVERS						
Anderson, Jesse (TE)	6-2/245	7-26-66	2	Mississippi State	D4/90	16/2
Anthony, Terry	6-0/200	7-26-66	1	Florida State	D11/90	1/0
Carrier, Mark	6-0/185	10-28-65	5	Nicholls State	D3/87	16/16
Dawsey, Lawrence	6-0/195	11-16-67	R	Florida State	D3/91	—
Drewrey, Willie	5-7/170	4-28-63	7	West Virginia	PlanB/89	16/1
Ford, Chris	6-1/185	5-20-67	2	Lamar	FA/90	1/0
Hall, Ron (TE)	6-4/245	3-15-64	5	Hawaii	D4a/87	16/16
Hill, Bruce	6-0/180	2-29-64	5	Arizona State	D4b/87	13/13
Peebles, Danny	5-11/180	4-30-66	3	North Carolina State	D2/89	10/0
Taylor, Treamelle (KR)	5-10/175	11-8-69	R	Nevada	D9/91	—
Thomas, Ed (TE)	6-3/235	5-4-66	2	Houston	FA/91	7/0
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Bax, Carl	6-4/290	1-5-66	3	Missouri	D8/89	9/6
Beckles, Ian (G)	6-1/295	7-20-67	2	Indiana	D5/90	16/16
Brubien, John (G)	6-3/285	12-9-64	4	Tennessee	D4a/88	14/1
Dill, Scott (T)	6-5/285	4-5-66	4	Memphis State	PlanB/90	3/2
Grimes, Randy (C)	6-4/275	7-20-60	9	Baylor	D2/83	15/15
Gruber, Paul (T)	6-5/290	2-24-65	4	Wisconsin	D1/88	16/16
Mayberry, Tony (C)	6-4/285	12-8-67	2	Wake Forest	D4a/90	16/1
McHale, Tom (G)	6-4/280	2-25-63	5	Cornell	FA/87	7/7
McRae, Charles (T)	6-7/290	9-16-68	R	Tennessee	D1/91	—
Ryan, Tim (G)	6-2/280	9-2-68	R	Notre Dame	D5a/91	—
Taylor, Rob (T)	6-6/290	11-14-60	6	Northwestern	FA/86	16/16
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Davis, Reuben (E)	6-4/285	5-7-65	4	North Carolina	D9/88	16/16
Hall, Rhett (T)	6-2/260	12-5-68	R	California	D6/91	—
Jones, Marlon (E)	6-4/270	7-1-64	5	Central State (O.)	PlanB/91	IR
McCants, Keith	6-3/255	11-19-68	2	Alabama	D1/90	15/4
Newton, Tim (NT)	6-0/275	3-23-63	7	Florida	FA/90	14/5
Robertson, Derrell (E)	6-7/245	9-22-67	1	Mississippi	PlanB/91	IR
Seals, Ray (E)	6-3/270	6-17-65	2	None	FA/88	8/0
Skow, Jim (E)	6-3/250	6-29-63	6	Nebraska	FA/90	12/10
Sunvold, Mike (T)	6-3/260	9-21-67	R	Minnesota	D11/91	—
White, Robb (E)	6-5/280	5-25-65	4	South Dakota	FA/91	7/1
LINEBACKERS						
Anno, Sam	6-2/235	1-26-65	5	Southern California	PlanB/89	16/0
Bagsby, Terry	6-0/235	1-20-69	R	East Texas State	D5/91	—
Chamblee, Al	6-1/240	11-17-68	R	Virginia Tech	D12/91	—
Marve, Eugene	6-2/240	8-14-60	10	Saginaw Valley (Mich.)	T-Buf/88	16/16
Murphy, Kevin	6-2/235	9-8-63	6	Oklahoma	D2a/86	15/7
Randle, Ervin	6-1/250	10-12-62	7	Baylor	D3/85	16/7
Thomas, Broderick	6-4/245	2-20-67	3	Nebraska	D1/89	16/15
Tiggle, Calvin	6-1/235	11-10-68	R	Georgia Tech	D7/91	—
DEFENSIVE BACKS						
Carter, Marty (S)	6-1/200	12-17-69	R	Middle Tennessee State	D8/91	—
Covington, Tony (S)	5-11/190	12-26-67	R	Virginia	D4/91	—
Everett, Eric	5-10/170	7-13-66	4	Texas Tech	PlanB/90	16/0
Frizzell, William	6-3/205	9-8-62	8	North Carolina Central	PlanB/91	*16/1
Haddix, Wayne	6-1/205	7-23-63	4	Liberty	FA/90	16/16
Hamilton, Harry	6-0/195	11-29-62	8	Penn State	FA/88	16/16
Reynolds, Ricky	5-11/190	1-19-65	5	Washington State	D2/87	15/15
Rice, Rodney	5-8/180	6-18-66	3	Brigham Young	PlanB/90	16/1
Robinson, Mark	5-11/200	9-13-62	8	Penn State	T-KC/88	16/16
SPECIALISTS						
Christie, Steve (K)	6-0/185	11-13-67	2	William & Mary	FA/90	16/0
Royals, Mark (P)	6-5/215	6-22-64	2	Appalachian State	FA/90	16/0
OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP						
Irvin Clark, DL; Maurice Crum, LB; Tim Dudley, RB; Mike Gindorff, DL; Eddie Godfrey, DB; Robert Hardy, RB; Chris Harkness, WR; Pat Hinton, LB; Malvin Hunter, LB; Bennie Jennings, TE; Dale Joseph, DB; Jake McInerney, K; Tony Moss, WR; Chip Nitkowski, OL; Eric Nyhus, P; Nick Polczynski, OL; Daryl Reed, DB; Glenn Rogers, DB; Ron Vargo, C; Ken Watson, FB; Calvin Windom, RB.						

*Not with Buccaneers in 1990.

†Includes totals with both Buccaneers and another NFL team in 1990.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

DID YOU KNOW...

...that quarterback Vinny Testaverde has produced the winning points in the fourth quarter or in overtime in eight of Tampa Bay's 16 wins over the last three seasons?

Despite gaffes, Falcons appear to be on the rise

By GENE STONE
Gwinnett Daily News

The Atlanta Falcons are hard to understand.

On one hand, the Falcons have become a desirable team to play for—primarily because of their wide-open offense—in spite of their minimal success over the years. They also have acquired considerable talent and are in a good position to succeed in the coming year.

But on the other hand, the Falcons continue to commit inexplicable acts of unprofessionalism, the most recent being the April draft selection of wide receiver Walter Sutton, a convicted crack cocaine runner. Coach Jerry Glanville wants outlaws on his team, but convicted felons? A few days after Sutton's story broke, the Falcons announced that they had been misinformed about him and would not offer the 10th-round pick a contract.

"I don't want to bury a guy when he's down, but he's not one of us anymore," Glanville said.

In spite of that gaffe, the Falcons made serious strides toward respectability last year. Through the draft they dramatically improved their defense and speed, and fans are buying season tickets at a rate not seen since the early 1980s. But these same fans are keeping their fingers crossed that somehow the team does not screw up what is becoming a good thing.



Ball hunter: Unheralded linebacker Jessie Tuggle led the NFL in tackles last year, racking up 201 stops.

COACHING

Glanville is the king of the quick fix, as his April motto "Draft for Now" attests. In 1990 he transformed a lifeless band of individuals into an enthusiastic, hard-hitting, fun team.

Glanville made no promises about victories when he took the job last year, which is good since he registered only five, but he promised to restore pride, which he did. Now that he is reunited with offensive coordinator June Jones,

a run-and-shoot specialist who coached with Glanville in Houston, management and fans will expect victories to accompany the enthusiasm.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—This will be a judgment year for Chris Miller, who has been purported to be one of the league's most promising young quarterbacks for the last few seasons. His biggest problem is staying healthy. A broken collarbone sidelined him late last year, and he has yet to play a full season. In 1990 he was on pace to have a career year, but by the time he got hurt in December his interceptions had soared to 14, four more than he had in all of 1989.

Gilbert Renfroe has an impressive Canadian Football League resume, but one year after coming to Atlanta he still has not thrown a National Football League pass.

Second-round draftee Brett Favre of Southern Mississippi should spend most of this season fighting Renfroe for the No. 2 job.

RUNNING BACKS—This was an erratic position last year.

Mike Rozier, a \$100 waiver pickup from Houston, overtook rookie Steve Broussard as the team's No. 1 back. He rushed for over 100 yards three times, and he now wants close to \$1 million per season, which is about twice what the team thinks he's worth. A holdout appears imminent.

Rozier's absence would clear a path for Broussard to become the primary runner. But injuries, resentment of Rozier and a penchant for fumbling made Broussard one of last year's biggest disappointments.

Keith Jones is versatile enough to play tailback, fullback or quarterback, plus he keeps his mouth shut. When fullback Tracy Johnson is in the game,

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Thomas	Worthen	
WR	Rison	Dixon	
LT	Kenn	Redding	Lucas
LG	Hoover	Scully	
C	Dukes	Ruether	Tucker
RG	Fralic	Ruether	
RT	Hinton	Hunter	Lucas
WR	Pritchard	Worthen	
WR	Haynes	Dixon	
QB	C. Miller	Renfroe	Favre
TB	Broussard	Rozier	Jones

DEFENSE

LE	Green	Barnett	Logan
NT	Epps	Caillas	Gardner
RE	Gann	Bryan	Brinkley
LOLB	Bruce	Lyles	Goode
LILB	Lyles	Tippins	Miles
RILB	Tuggle	Rade	Tippins
ROLB	Conner	Reid	Goode
LCB	McKyer	Pickens	Butler
RCB	Sanders	Shelley	Mitchell
SS	Jordan	Donaldson	Shelley
FS	Case	Eaton	Fishback

SPECIALISTS

K	Karlis		
P	Fulhage		
KR	Sanders	Jones	Pritchard
PR	Sanders	Jordan	Pritchard

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: Atlanta's effort and hitting overcome many deficiencies. Its defense against the run is outstanding, and the addition of Tim McKyer strengthens a once-porous pass defense. The special teams are top-notch.

Weaknesses: At times the players take foolish penalties. The jury is still out on the running game, which must produce if the Falcons are to win consistently. Experience in big games is scarce.

Key to success: A stingy defense. If McKyer, Deion Sanders and Bruce Pickens can blanket opposing receivers, the blitzing linebackers and safeties should be able to tee off on opposing quarterbacks.

Sure sign of trouble: If Chris Miller gets injured or has side effects from his broken collarbone, the Falcons will have to trash their four-receiver offense, as they did last year when he was injured. His back-ups have no NFL experience.

That's a fact: Atlanta has not won a road game since November 1988, a string of 18 losses. The Falcons open the season at Kansas City, where they have played just once (1985), dropping a 38-10 decision.

Coach Jerry Glanville says: "Our biggest problem right now is we can't wait for the season to start. We've got so much in place, we want to get this thing revved up before we go stir crazy."

expect a pass.

RECEIVERS—Playing predominantly the four-wideout "Red Gun" offense, Atlanta can't rely solely on Andre Rison. During a phenomenal first half of 1990, Rison appeared able to carry the load. His second half was less productive, largely because of injuries to him and Miller that forced the Falcons to run a more conservative offense, but he still set a team record with 82 receptions.

The Falcons think they struck gold with their second first-round pick, Mike Pritchard of Colorado, who will take some double-team coverage away from Rison.

In Michael Haynes and George Thomas, the Falcons have speed on the outside. Thomas excelled after mid-season to finish with a 21.3-yards-per-catch average. The Falcons will likely trade Shawn Collins, while the addition of Plan B receiver Naz Worthen means Floyd Dixon will have to fight for his backup job.

The Falcons' tight end is almost nonexistent. When used, incumbent Gary Wilkins is adequate as a receiver and blocker.

LINEMEN—For the first time in years, the Falcons have a dependable line.

This could be the last year for left tackle Mike Kenn, who enters his 14th season in Atlanta, although last year was one of his best. Right tackle Chris Hinton regained his Pro Bowl form by midseason after suffering a poor start incurred by a lengthy contract holdout.

Despite being mentioned often in trade discussions, right guard Bill Fralic enjoyed his best season in years. Fourth-year guard Houston Hoover is the least-known of the Falcon linemen, but he has the most versatility.

Center Jamie Dukes probably had the shakiest season of any starter. In Mike Ruether and John Scully there is depth at center and guard, respectively, but John Hunter and Reggie Redding are inexperienced tackle reserves.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—The worst team against the run in 1989, Atlanta rebounded to yield an NFL-low 3.3 yards per carry last year.

Unheralded right end Mike Gann was solid, while his undersized counterpart, Tim Green, led the team in sacks (six).

Nose tackle Tory Epps completes the front three. While Tony Casillas endured a contract squabble and a chilly relationship with Glanville, Epps quietly started 15 games, blocked three field goals and led all NFL rookie linemen with 84 tackles. Casillas' future in Atlanta is in doubt.

The main area of concern on the line is the pass rush. The coaches hope second-year end Oliver Barnett blossoms into a fierce rusher this year.

LINEBACKERS—Lots of potential and lots of questions make this the most in-

1991 ATLANTA FALCONS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL Exp.	College	How acq.	'90 Games GP/GS
Campbell, Scott	6-0/195	4-15-62	5	Purdue	FA/86	7/2
Favre, Brett	6-2/220	10-10-69	R	Southern Mississippi	D2/91	—
Miller, Chris	6-2/205	8-9-65	5	Oregon	D1/87	12/12
Renfro, Gilbert	6-1/195	2-18-63	2	Tennessee State	FA/90	0/0
RUNNING BACKS						
Broussard, Steve	5-7/201	2-22-67	2	Washington State	D1/90	13/10
Christian, Bobby	5-10/215	11-14-68	R	Northwestern	D12/91	—
Johnson, Tracy (FB)	6-0/230	3-13-66	3	Clemson	PlanB/90	16/5
Jones, Keith	6-1/210	3-20-66	3	Illinois	D3/89	15/10
Pegram, Eric	5-9/188	1-7-69	R	North Texas	D6/91	—
Pringle, Mike	5-8/186	10-1-67	2	Cal State Fullerton	D6/90	3/0
Rozier, Mike	5-10/213	3-1-61	7	Nebraska	W-Hou/90	16/5
RECEIVERS						
Austin, Randy (TE)	6-2/245	12-14-67	R	UCLA	D8/91	—
Bartlewski, Rich (TE)	6-5/255	8-15-67	2	Fresno State	FA/91	*4/0
Collins, Shawn	6-2/207	2-20-67	3	Northern Arizona	D1a/89	16/6
Dixon, Floyd	5-9/170	4-9-64	6	Stephen F. Austin State	D6/86	16/2
Haynes, Michael	6-0/180	12-24-65	4	Northern Arizona	D7/88	13/10
LeBel, Harper (TE)	6-4/245	7-14-63	3	Colorado State	PlanB/91	*16/0
Phillips, Jason	5-7/168	10-11-66	3	Houston	PlanB/91	*13/2
Pritchard, Mike	5-11/180	10-25-69	R	Colorado	D1a/91	—
Rison, Andre	6-0/191	3-18-67	3	Michigan State	T-Ind/90	16/15
Thomas, George	5-9/169	7-11-64	3	UNLV	D6/88	13/2
Wilkins, Gary (TE)	6-2/235	11-23-63	6	Georgia Tech	FA/89	16/13
Worthen, Naz	5-8/177	3-27-66	3	North Carolina State	PlanB/91	*9/0
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Bingham, Guy (C)	6-3/260	2-25-58	12	Montana	FA/89	16/0
Dukes, Jamie (C)	6-1/285	6-14-64	6	Florida State	FA/86	16/16
Fralic, Bill (G)	6-5/280	10-31-62	7	Pittsburgh	D1/85	16/16
Hinton, Chris (T)	6-4/300	7-31-61	9	Northwestern	T-Ind/90	15/12
Hoover, Houston (G/T)	6-2/290	2-6-65	4	Jackson State	D6a/88	16/12
Hunter, John (T)	6-8/296	8-16-65	3	Brigham Young	FA/89	15/3
Kenn, Mike (T)	6-7/277	2-9-56	14	Michigan	D1/78	16/16
Lucas, Pete (T)	6-3/320	3-15-66	R	Wisconsin-Stevens Point	D10a/91	—
Redding, Reggie (T)	6-3/281	9-22-68	2	Cal State Fullerton	D5/90	0/0
Ruether, Mike (C/G)	6-4/275	9-20-62	6	Texas	PlanB/90	16/0
Scully, John (G)	6-6/270	8-2-58	10	Notre Dame	D4/81	10/5
Tucker, Mark (C/G)	6-2/279	4-29-68	R	Southern California	D7a/91	—
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Barnett, Oliver (E)	6-3/288	4-9-66	2	Kentucky	D3/90	15/1
Brinkley, Lester (E)	6-6/255	5-16-65	2	Mississippi	FA/91	*6/0
Bryan, Rick (E)	6-4/265	3-20-62	8	Oklahoma	D1/84	16/5
Casillas, Tony (NT)	6-3/280	10-26-63	6	Oklahoma	D1/86	9/0
Epps, Tory (NT)	6-0/280	5-28-67	2	Memphis State	D8/90	16/15
Gann, Mike (E)	6-5/270	10-19-63	7	Notre Dame	D2/85	16/15
Gardner, Moe (NT)	6-2/258	8-10-68	R	Illinois	D4/91	—
Green, Tim (E)	6-2/245	12-16-63	6	Syracuse	D1a/86	16/16
Logan, Ernie (E)	6-3/271	5-18-68	R	East Carolina	D9/91	—
Roland, Benji	6-3/260	4-4-67	2	Auburn	PlanB/91	*3/1
Sims, Joe	6-3/294	3-1-69	R	Nebraska	D11/91	—
LINEBACKERS						
Bruce, Aundray	6-5/248	4-30-66	4	Auburn	D1/88	16/3
Conner, Darion	6-2/256	9-28-67	2	Jackson State	D2/90	16/7
Goode, James	6-2/246	1-21-68	R	Oklahoma	D5/91	—
Lyles, Robert	6-1/230	3-21-61	8	Texas Christian	W-Hou/90	*14/13
Rade, John	6-1/240	8-31-60	9	Boise State	D8/83	16/15
Reid, Michael	6-2/235	6-25-64	5	Wisconsin	D7/87	6/4
Tippins, Ken	6-1/230	7-22-66	3	Middle Tennessee State	FA/90	16/2
Tuggle, Jessie	5-11/230	2-14-65	5	Valdosta (Ga.) State	FA/87	16/14
DEFENSIVE BACKS						
Butler, Bobby (CB)	5-11/175	5-28-59	11	Florida State	D1/81	16/6
Carey, Richard (CB)	5-9/185	5-6-68	3	Idaho	FA/91	*3/0
Case, Scott (S)	6-1/188	5-17-62	8	Oklahoma	D2/84	16/16
Donaldson, Jeff (S)	6-0/188	4-19-62	8	Colorado	PlanB/91	*16/9
Eaton, Tracey (S)	6-1/195	7-19-65	4	Portland (Ore.) State	PlanB/91	*11/0
Jordan, Brian (S)	5-11/202	3-29-67	3	Richmond	FA/89	16/15
McKyer, Tim (CB)	6-0/174	9-5-63	6	Texas-Arlington	T-Mia/91	*16/16
Mitchell, Brian (CB)	5-9/164	12-13-68	R	Brigham Young	D7/91	—
Pickens, Bruce (CB)	5-11/190	5-9-68	R	Nebraska	D1/91	—
Sanders, Deion (CB)	6-0/187	8-8-67	3	Florida State	D1/89	16/16
Shelley, Elbert (CB)	5-11/180	12-24-64	5	Arkansas State	D11/87	12/0
SPECIALISTS						
Fulhage, Scott (P)	5-10/193	11-17-61	5	Kansas State	FA/89	16/0
Karlis, Rich (K)	6-0/180	5-23-59	10	Cincinnati	FA/91	*6/0

OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP

Dirk Borgognone, K; Pat Chaffey, FB; Leonard Conley, RB; William Evers, CB; Joe Fishback, S; Corian Freeman, LB; Oscar Giles, DE; Jacques Jackson, LB; Pat Jackson, WR; George Koonce, LB; Brian McKenzie, LB; Eddie Miles, LB; Karl Miller, WR; Wes Pritchett, LB; Mike Rhodes, QB; Leroy Truitt, T; Reggie White, G; Mike Williams, WR.

*Not with Falcons in 1990.

+Includes totals with both Falcons and another NFL team in 1990.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

DID YOU KNOW ...

... that Atlanta had three players—Jessie Tuggle (first), Brian Jordan (third) and Scott Case (sixth)—finish among the top six tacklers in the NFL last season?

Continued

COACHES

Head coach: Jerry Glanville.
 Assistant coaches:
 Bobby April (special teams/tight ends).
 Jimmy Carr (secondary).
 June Jones (assistant head coach/offense).
 Tim Jorgensen (strength and conditioning).
 Bill Kollar (defensive line).
 Jimmy Robinson (wide receivers).
 Keith Rowen (offensive line).
 Doug Shively (assistant head coach/defense).
 Ollie Wilson (running backs).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1990 regular-season record: 5-11 (4th in NFC West);
 2-4 in division; 3-9 in conference; 5-3 at home; 0-8
 on road.

1990 playoff record: None.

Glanville's regular-season record: 5-11 in one season
 with Falcons; 38-43 overall in six NFL seasons with
 Falcons and Oilers.

Glanville's postseason record: 2-3 in three playoffs with
 Oilers.

Team record last five years: 23-55-1 (.297, ranks 27th
 in league in that span).

1990 team rankings:	NFC	NFL
Total offense.....	5	10
Rushing offense.....	12	21
Passing offense.....	4	6
Scoring offense.....	T6	T10
Total defense.....	10	19
Rushing defense.....	3	3
Passing defense.....	14	28
Scoring defense.....	10	21
Takeaways.....	T3	T5
Giveaways.....	T11	T24
Turnover differential.....	T10	T18
Sacks.....	11	T20
Sacks allowed.....	10	T21

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

Stadium (capacity): Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium
 (59,643).

Ticket information: 404-261-5400.

Flagship radio station: WSB, 750 AM.

Training site: Atlanta Falcon Complex, Suwanee, Ga.;
 404-945-1111.

1991 SCHEDULE

Sept. 1—at Kansas City	12:00
Sept. 8—MINNESOTA	1:00
Sept. 15—at San Diego	1:00
Sept. 22—L.A. RAIDERS	1:00
Sept. 29—NEW ORLEANS	1:00
Oct. 6—Open date	
Oct. 13—SAN FRANCISCO	1:00
Oct. 20—at Phoenix	1:00
Oct. 27—L.A. RAMS	1:00
Nov. 3—at San Francisco	1:00
Nov. 10—at Washington	1:00
Nov. 17—TAMPA BAY	1:00
Nov. 24—at New Orleans	7:00
Dec. 1—GREEN BAY	1:00
Dec. 8—at L.A. Rams	1:00
Dec. 15—SEATTLE	1:00
Dec. 22—at Dallas	12:00

All times local. All games Sunday.

1990 RESULTS

Sept. 9—HOUSTON	47-27
Sept. 16—at Detroit	14-21
Sept. 23—at San Francisco	13-19
Sept. 30—Open date	
Oct. 7—NEW ORLEANS	28-27
Oct. 14—SAN FRANCISCO	35-45
Oct. 21—at L.A. Rams	24-44
Oct. 28—CINCINNATI	38-17
Nov. 4—at Pittsburgh	9-21
Nov. 11—at Chicago	24-30
Nov. 18—PHILADELPHIA	23-24
Nov. 25—at New Orleans	7-10
Dec. 2—at Tampa Bay	17-23
Dec. 9—PHOENIX	13-24
Dec. 16—at Cleveland	10-13
Dec. 23—L.A. RAMS	20-13
Dec. 30—DALLAS	26-7

1990 LEADERS

Scoring (kicking): Greg Davis, 106 pts. (40/40 PATs,
 22/33 FGs).

Scoring (touchdowns): Andre Rison, 60 pts. (10 re-
 ceiving).

Passing: Chris Miller, 2,735 yds. (388 att., 222 comp.,
 57.2%, 17 TDs, 14 int.).

Rushing: Mike Rozier, 675 yds. (153 att., 4.4 avg., 3
 TDs).

Receptions: Andre Rison, 82 (1,208 yds., 14.7 avg., 10
 TDs).

Interceptions: Deion Sanders, 3 (153 yds., 2 TDs);
 Scott Case, 3 (38 yds., 1 TD); Charles Dimry, 3 (16
 yds., 0 TDs); Brian Jordan, 3 (14 yds., 0 TDs);

Bobby Butler, 3 (0 yds., 0 TDs).

Tackles: Jessie Tuggle, 201 (99 solo, 102 assisted).
 Sacks: Tim Green, 6 (36 yds.).

Punting: Scott Fulhage, 41.6 avg. (70 punts).

Punt returns: Deion Sanders, 8.6 avg. (29 att.).
 Kickoff returns: Deion Sanders, 21.8 avg. (39 att.).

1990 FANTASY STATISTICS

Statistics included for current members of 1991 roster only.

Name	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING				Defensive TDs	Total TDs
	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	18-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs		
Broussard	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	
Butler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2†	2	
Campbell	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	
Case	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1	
Collins	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
Dixon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	
Johnson	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	
Jones	-	-	-	-	-	1‡	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1‡	
Karlis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	12	-	-	
Miller	8	6	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	
Rison	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	10	
Rozier	-	-	-	-	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	
Sanders	-	-	-	-	-	1°	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2*	3	
Thomas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Tuggle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1	
Wilkins	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	

* fumble recovery. * interception. ° punt return. † blocked punt. ‡ kickoff return.

triguing area on the team.

First, the good news. Darion Conner made huge strides in the second half of his rookie year and seems poised to become one of the league's next terrorizing outside linebackers. The 5-foot-11 Jessie Tuggle is a huge hitter who led the NFL with 201 tackles last year from his inside-linebacker spot.

Now for the bad news. Defensive signal-caller John Rade underwent knee surgery in January and is questionable for the start of the season. Former starter Michael Reid suffered a season-ending knee injury in Week 6, and while his return is probable, no one knows if he will be 100 percent.

Unable to fill those two potential gaps through the draft or Plan B, Atlanta moved Robert Lyles from outside linebacker to inside in place of Rade. Assuming he isn't traded, Aundray Bruce will get the first chance to fill Reid's outside spot. Veteran Ken Tippins and fifth-round pick James Goode also could sneak into the picture.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—Easily the worst position on the team last year, the secondary could be greatly improved. Atlanta was on pace to set an NFL record for most passing yards allowed when Glanville finally had to scrap his blitzing defense. The reason: He had only one cornerback (Deion Sanders) who could cover man-to-man.

Beleaguered cornerback Charles Dimry is off to Denver as a Plan B free agent. But the Falcons filled his void by acquiring Tim McKyer, a suitable partner for Sanders, in a draft-day trade with Miami. In addition, Atlanta's top draft pick, Bruce Pickens of Nebraska, has the raw skills to be a fine single-coverage corner.

With Plan B additions Jeff Donaldson (Kansas City) and Tracey Eaton (Phoenix) and incumbent starter Scott Case, the Falcons are overloaded at free safety.

The biggest surprise of 1990 was strong safety Brian Jordan, who led all NFL defensive backs in tackles last year. He is scheduled to leave one of the St. Louis Cardinals' minor league baseball teams in July and return to the Falcons.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Few teams put as much emphasis on this area as Atlanta, and the results are evident.

The Falcons blocked five field goals and four punts, deflected one punt and twice tackled the punter for a loss last year. They also returned a punt and a kickoff for touchdowns. Sanders is an electrifying kick returner.

Atlanta lost Plan B place-kicker Greg Davis to Phoenix. His replacement, veteran free agent Rich Karlis, is steady on field goals and gets great hang time on kicks but needs work on his distance. Punter Scott Fulhage is average.



Rams must get defensive if they hope to rebound

By JIM THOMAS
Copley Los Angeles Newspapers

The Los Angeles Rams ended the 1980s on a high note, going 13-6 and coming within one victory of reaching the Super Bowl. All they needed was a little improvement from their young defensive players, they thought, and they'd be one of the glamour teams of the '90s.

Wrong.

After opening the new decade with a 5-11 season in which they went from Super Bowl contenders to super flops, the Rams enter 1991 as one of the most questionable teams in the National Football League.

The biggest question mark is the Rams' defense, which will switch from a bend-but-don't-break 3-4 alignment to an attacking 4-3 configuration. But potential problems abound because Los Angeles will rely on a myriad of new faces on defense to make significant contributions.

If this unit is to succeed, new defensive coordinator Jeff Fisher must get a better pass rush, a smooth transition by his linebackers to the 4-3 set and improved coverage in the secondary.

On offense, the biggest concern is the ground attack. For the Rams to run the ball more effectively—one of Coach John Robinson's primary goals—they'll need more production from a reshuffled offensive line, consistent error-free football from fumble-prone Cleve-



Making the switch: Kevin Greene, who recorded 46 sacks over the last three years as a linebacker/end, must adjust to becoming a pure down lineman in '91.

land Gary and a rebirth of untested Marcus Dupree. It could happen, but there are no guarantees.

Although the Rams again boast a dy-

namic passing attack led by sixth-year quarterback Jim Everett and 1,000-yard receivers Henry Ellard and Willie Anderson, they won't get far unless they are at least moderately successful on defense and on the ground.

Even Robinson doesn't know what to expect over the short term, but he is sure of one thing: The challenge of playing a radically new defense and bouncing back from a nightmarish season will breathe life into the Rams.

"We've always been a committed football team, always been successful," said Robinson, who has guided the Rams to the playoffs six times in his eight seasons at the helm. "Last year, a number of things seemed to fall apart for us.

"Before we do anything else, we have to go back and say we're going to be a committed group of people. We're going to play the game with a fanaticism that just wasn't there last year."

If the new defense is slow to get going, it may take a little fanaticism to keep the Rams in the race.

COACHING

Robinson, given new off-the-field power by Owner Georgia Frontiere, wasted no time changing his defensive staff after experiencing his worst season as a pro coach.

Determined to junk the 3-4 system employed by former defensive coordinator Fritz Shurmur, Robinson fired

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: Quarterback Jim Everett and wide receivers Henry Ellard and Willie Anderson form the nucleus of one of the most potent passing attacks in the NFL. The offensive line remains one of the league's best and could be strengthened by changes at center and guard and the acquisition of Denver's Gerald Perry.

Weaknesses: The Rams might have had the worst defensive line in the league a year ago, and the prospects don't look much better for 1991. Kevin Greene, who will move from outside linebacker/end in the 3-4 to a pure end in the 4-3, is the only proven pass rusher. On offense, the loss of Pete Holohan to Plan B free agency leaves a void at tight end.

Key to success: The Rams' revamped defense—headed by new coordinator Jeff Fisher—must perform better if they expect to contend for a playoff spot.

Sure sign of trouble: If the Rams' new 4-3 defense gives up a slew of big plays early, it could be another long season. After it opens the season at home against Phoenix, Los Angeles plays the Giants, Saints and 49ers on the road in consecutive weeks.

That's a fact: The Rams have 12 new defensive players, including seven from the draft and five from Plan B free agency.

Coach John Robinson says: "There is no risk (in switching from a 3-4 to the 4-3) because we were failing so badly. How painful will the transition be? My guess is not too bad."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Ellard	A. Cox	S. Bailey
LT	Pankey	R. Cox	Perry
LG	Perry	Millinichik	
C	Newberry	D. Smith	Brostek
RG	Brostek	Love	
RT	Slater	R. Cox	
TE	Johnson	Price	Carter
WR	Anderson	Faison	
QB	Everett	Long	Pagel
RB	Gary	Dupree	Delpino
FB	McGee	Delpino	Tatupu

DEFENSE

LE	Robinson	Hawkins	Smith
T	Piel	Young	
T	Wright	Wilson	
RE	Greene	Wilson	Smith
LOLB	Strickland	Wilcher	
MLB	Stams	Kelm	Sanders
ROLB	Phifer	Faryniarz	
LCB	Gray	R. Thomas	R. Bailey
RCB	Lyght	Henley	Berry
SS	Newman	Stewart	
FS	Terrell	Gray	

SPECIALISTS

K	Zendejas		
P	Hatcher		
KR	Delpino	Berry	
PR	Henley	Ellard	

Continued

1991 LOS ANGELES RAMS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	HL./WT.	Born	NFL Exp.	College	How acq.	'90 Games GP/GS
Everett, Jim.....	6-5/212	1-3-63	6	Purdue	T-Hou/86	16/16
Long, Chuck.....	6-4/221	2-18-63	6	Iowa	T-Det/90	4/0
Pagel, Mike.....	6-2/210	9-13-60	10	Arizona State	FA/91	*16/3
RUNNING BACKS						
Delpino, Robert (FB/KR).....	6-0/205	11-2-65	4	Missouri	D5/88	15/3
Dupree, Marcus.....	6-2/225	5-22-64	2	Southern Mississippi	FA/90	7/1
Gary, Cleveland.....	6-0/226	5-4-66	3	Miami (Fla.)	D1a/89	15/7
Lang, David.....	5-11/201	3-28-67	1	Northern Arizona	D12/90	0/0
McGee, Buford (FB).....	6-0/210	8-16-60	8	Mississippi	T-SD/87	16/15
Shelton, Tyrone.....	5-11/219	12-30-68	R	William & Mary	D7/91	—
Tatupu, Mosi (FB).....	6-0/227	4-26-55	14	Southern California	PlanB/91	*15/0
Thompson, Ernie.....	5-11/238	10-25-69	R	Indiana	D12a/91	—
RECEIVERS						
Anderson, Willie.....	6-0/175	3-7-65	4	UCLA	D2a/88	16/11
Bailey, Stacey.....	6-1/163	2-10-60	10	San Jose State	FA/91	*3/1
Carter, Pat (TE).....	6-3/255	8-1-66	4	Florida State	T-Det/89	16/4
Cox, Aaron.....	5-10/178	3-13-65	4	Arizona State	D1a/88	14/1
Ellard, Henry (PR).....	5-11/182	7-21-61	9	Fresno State	D2/83	15/15
Faison, Derrick.....	6-4/200	8-24-67	2	Howard	FA/90	15/0
Johnson, Damone (TE).....	6-4/250	3-2-62	7	Cal Poly San Luis Obispo	D6/85	13/9
Price, Jim (TE).....	6-4/247	10-2-66	1	Stanford	FA/90	0/0
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Brostek, Bern (G/C).....	6-3/300	9-11-66	2	Washington	D1/90	16/2
Cox, Robert (T).....	6-5/285	12-30-63	6	UCLA	D6/86	11/0
Fort, Neal (T).....	6-5/279	4-12-68	R	Brigham Young	D6/91	—
Love, Duval (G).....	6-3/287	6-24-63	7	UCLA	D10/85	16/16
Milinchik, Joe (G).....	6-5/275	3-30-63	5	North Carolina State	PlanB/90	8/0
Newberry, Tom (C/G).....	6-2/285	12-20-62	6	Wisconsin-LaCrosse	D2/86	15/15
Pahukoa, Jeff (T).....	6-2/298	2-2-69	R	Washington	D12/91	—
Pankey, Irv (T).....	6-5/292	2-15-58	12	Penn State	D2/80	16/16
Perry, Gerald (G/T).....	6-6/305	11-12-64	4	Southern (La.)	T-Den/91	*8/8
Slater, Jackie (T).....	6-4/287	5-27-54	16	Jackson State	D3/76	15/15
Smith, Doug (C).....	6-3/275	11-25-56	14	Bowling Green State	FA/78	16/16
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Fields, Jeff (T).....	6-1/298	7-7-67	R	Arkansas State	D9/91	—
Greene, Kevin (E).....	6-3/247	7-31-62	7	Auburn	D5/85	15/15
Hawkins, Bill (E).....	6-6/266	5-9-66	3	Miami (Fla.)	D1/89	15/0
Piel, Mike (T).....	6-4/270	9-21-65	3	Illinois	D3/88	16/11
Reed, Doug (T).....	6-3/265	7-16-60	9	San Diego State	D4/83	16/16
Robinson, Gerald (E).....	6-3/262	5-4-63	4	Auburn	PlanB/91	*11/1
Smith, Brian (E).....	6-6/268	4-23-66	3	Auburn	D2a/89	16/4
Thomas, Ben (E).....	6-3/275	7-2-61	5	Auburn	FA/91	0/0
Wilson, Karl (E/T).....	6-4/275	3-10-64	5	Louisiana State	PlanB/91	*16/2
Wright, Alvin (T).....	6-2/285	2-5-61	6	Jacksonville (Ala.) State	FA/86	16/16
Young, Robert (T).....	6-6/273	1-29-69	R	Mississippi State	D5/91	—
LINEBACKERS						
Bethune, George.....	6-4/240	3-30-67	3	Alabama	D7/89	16/0
Butcher, Paul.....	6-0/230	11-8-63	6	Wayne (Neb.) State	FA/90	11-8
Crews, Terry.....	6-2/237	7-30-68	R	Western Michigan	D11/91	—
Faryniarz, Brett.....	6-3/232	7-23-65	4	San Diego State	FA/88	16/3
Kelm, Larry.....	6-4/240	11-29-64	5	Texas A&M	D4a/87	11/10
Phifer, Roman.....	6-2/230	3-5-68	R	UCLA	D2/91	—
Sanders, Glenell.....	6-0/224	11-4-66	2	Louisiana Tech	PlanB/91	*2/0
Stams, Frank.....	6-2/240	7-17-65	3	Notre Dame	D2/89	14/13
Strickland, Fred.....	6-2/250	8-15-66	4	Purdue	D2b/88	5/5
Tyrance, Pat.....	6-1/240	7-30-68	R	Nebraska	D8/91	—
Wilcher, Mike.....	6-3/245	3-20-60	9	North Carolina	D2a/83	16/15
DEFENSIVE BACKS						
Bailey, Robert (CB).....	5-9/176	9-3-68	R	Miami (Fla.)	D4/91	—
Berry, Latin (CB/KR).....	5-10/196	1-13-67	2	Oregon	D3/90	16/0
Gray, Jerry (CB/S).....	6-0/185	12-16-62	7	Texas	D1/85	12/12
Henley, Darryl (CB/PR).....	5-9/172	10-30-66	3	UCLA	D2b/89	9/6
Jackson, Alfred (CB).....	6-0/180	7-10-67	2	San Diego State	D5/89	5/0
Lilly, Sammy (CB).....	5-9/178	2-12-65	3	Georgia Tech	PlanB/91	*10/0
Lyght, Todd (CB).....	6-0/186	2-9-69	R	Notre Dame	D1/91	—
Newman, Anthony (S).....	6-0/199	11-25-65	4	Oregon	D2/88	16/6
Stewart, Michael (S).....	6-0/199	7-12-65	5	Fresno State	D8/87	16/11
Terrell, Pat (S).....	6-0/195	3-18-68	2	Notre Dame	D2/90	15/1
Thomas, Rodney (CB).....	5-10/190	12-21-65	4	Brigham Young	PlanB/91	*15/0
SPECIALISTS						
English, Keith (P).....	6-3/220	3-10-66	2	Colorado	T-SD/90	16/0
Hatcher, Dale (P).....	6-2/220	4-5-63	7	Clemson	FA/91	0/0
Zendejas, Tony (K).....	5-8/165	5-15-60	7	Nevada	PlanB/91	*7/0
OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP						
Corwin Anthony, TE; Mike Babb, S; Robert Benton, S; Bernard Blackmon, WR; Brian Brown, RB; Derrick Carr, DE; Jarrod Delaney, WR; Aaron Emanuel, RB; Ivor Filiaga, OG; Bill Goldberg, DT; Darren Grudt, G; Jeff Hammer-schmidt, S; Greg Harris, WR; Craig Hartsuyker, LB; Brian Inman, T; Danny James, WR; Kirk Kirkpatrick, TE; Michael Lindsey, LB; David McKinnon, G; Sean Mulhearn, LB; Dustin Quinton, T; Jimmy Raye, WR; Trevor Ryals, C; Bobby San Jose, QB; Ron Slack, RB; Mark Steed, DE; Michael Thomas, WR; Peter Tucker, G.						

*Not with Rams in 1990.
Key to abbreviations on page 160.

DID YOU KNOW ...

... that the Rams signed more Plan B players this year (seven) than they had in the free-agency system's first two years combined (six)?

Shurmur and five other assistants and hired Fisher, a Buddy Ryan disciple from Philadelphia, and a whole new set of defensive aides.

Fisher, only 32, brought secondary coach Tom Bettis and linebackers coach Ronnie Jones with him. Robinson also hired John Teerlinck from Cleveland to enhance the line's pass-rushing abilities.

The offense remains in the capable hands of fifth-year coordinator Ernie Zampese, who guided the NFL's fifth-ranked offense last year. New offensive assistants include the much-traveled Jimmy Raye, who will work with wide receivers, and former Southern California running backs coach Clarence Shelmon, who will tutor the same position with the Rams.

Gil Haskell, who coached running backs the last four years for Los Angeles, assumes special-teams coaching duty, a post at which he excelled for the Rams from 1983 through '86.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—Everett had a few problems in 1990, but far fewer than other members on the team. He put together his third consecutive solid campaign and missed his second straight 4,000-yard passing season by only 11 yards.

Everett led the National Football Conference in passing yards while throwing 23 touchdown passes and 17 interceptions. He couldn't match his 1989 breakthrough season for late-game heroics, but he's ready to take another step forward.

The backup spot belongs to Chuck Long, who came to the Rams from Detroit last year for a 1991 third-round pick. Long should benefit greatly from a year in Zampese's system. Veteran free agent Mike Pagel, who started three games with Cleveland last year, will be the No. 3 quarterback.

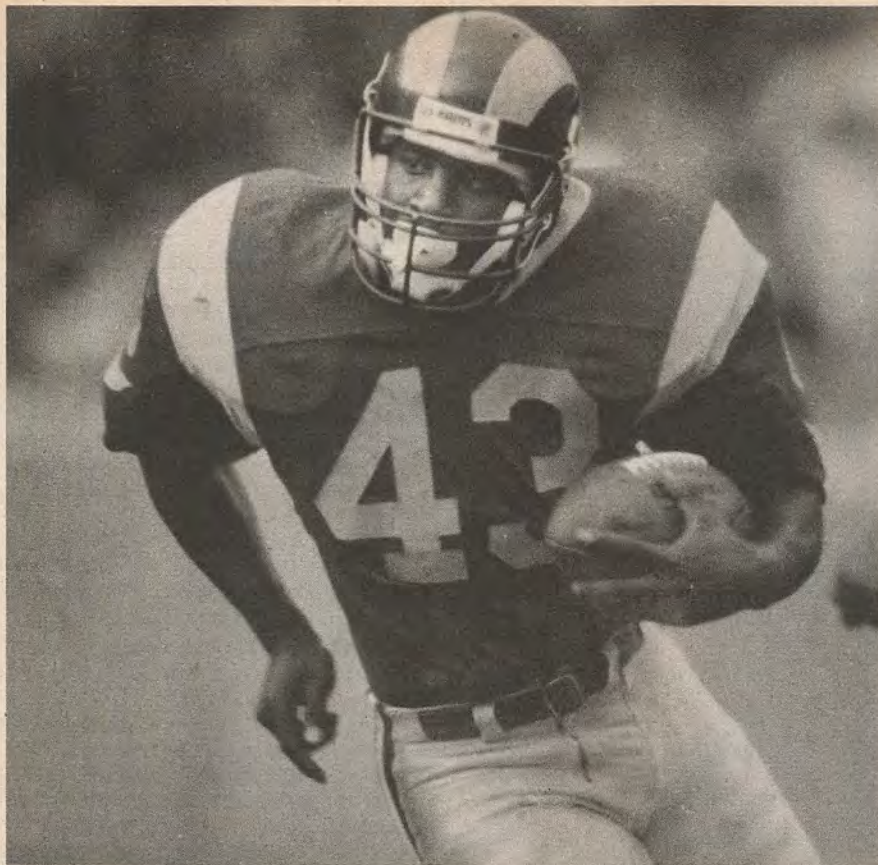
RUNNING BACKS—This could be one of the Rams' strongest positions or it could remain the problem area it was last year.

Gary gained 808 yards and rushed for 14 touchdowns in his first full season, but he also fumbled 12 times. Even if he gets his act together, Gary could be pressed by Dupree. After a five-year layoff, the 6-foot-2, 225-pound Dupree showed signs of being a legitimate NFL back late last season and should benefit from a full training camp this year.

The fullback spot is rock solid. Buford McGee is coming off his best season as a Ram, and Robert Delpino will continue to press for playing time.

RECEIVERS—Ellard showed no signs of slowing down in 1990. He enjoyed his third consecutive 1,000-yard season and became the Rams' all-time leading receiver in yards (7,037) and receptions (421).

Anderson, a gifted deep threat who continues to grow as an all-around receiver, led the NFL in yards per catch with a 21.5 average in 1990. He enjoyed



In a rush: Cleveland Gary gained 808 yards and rushed for 14 touchdowns in 1990, but he also fumbled 12 times.

his second consecutive 1,000-yard season.

After you get past that dynamic duo, however, there are problems. Aaron Cox's career is threatened by hamstring pulls, and the Rams don't have an obvious replacement for tight end Pete Holohan, who took the Plan B route to Kansas City. Jim Price, who spent last year on the Rams' practice squad, is being groomed to take his place. Damone Johnson will fill the void until Price is ready.

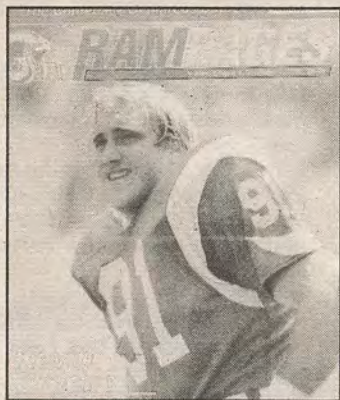
LINEMEN—Some intriguing changes are planned for a unit that has been stable for years but began to slip last season. If all goes well, especially with the newly acquired Gerald Perry, the Rams' line should be more powerful than it has been since the mid-'80s.

Pro Bowl guard Tom Newberry will move to center, displacing the aging Doug Smith. Newberry's guard spot could be taken by the 305-pound Perry, who was acquired from Denver for a fourth-round pick and running back Gaston Green in a draft-day trade. Perry, who had numerous off-field problems in Denver, eventually could take over for one of the Rams' aging tackles, Jackie Slater or Irv Pankey.

Bern Brostek, drafted No. 1 in 1990 as a center, has been moved to guard and will challenge returning starter Duval Love for a job.

Continued

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COACHES

Head coach: John Robinson.
Assistant coaches:
 Tom Bettis (defensive secondary).
 Jeff Fisher (defensive coordinator).
 Garrett Glemont (strength and conditioning).
 Marv Goux (defensive line/administrative assistant).
 Gil Haskell (tight ends/special teams).
 Hudson Houck (offensive line).
 Ronnie Jones (linebackers).
 Jimmy Raye (wide receivers/passing game coordinator).
 Clarence Shelton (running backs).
 John Teerlinck (defensive line).
 Ernie Zampese (offensive coordinator).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1990 regular-season record: 5-11 (3rd in NFC West); 2-4 in division; 3-9 in conference; 2-6 at home; 3-5 on road.

1990 playoff record: None.

Robinson's regular-season record: 72-55 in eight seasons with Rams.

Robinson's postseason record: 4-6 in six playoffs with Rams.

Team record last five years: 42-37 (.532, ranks T13th in league in that span).

1990 team rankings:	NFC	NFL
Total offense.....	4	5
Rushing offense.....	11	20
Passing offense.....	2	3
Scoring offense.....	8	12
Total defense.....	11	21
Rushing defense.....	8	13
Passing defense.....	13	27
Scoring defense.....	13	25
Takeaways.....	T8	T13
Giveaways.....	6	11
Turnover differential.....	6	T10
Sacks.....	T12	T24
Sacks allowed.....	4	9

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

Stadium (capacity): Anaheim Stadium (69,008).
 Ticket information: 714-937-6767.
 Flagship radio station: KMPC, 710 AM.
 Training site: UC Irvine, Irvine, Calif.; 714-535-7267.

1991 SCHEDULE

Sept. 1—PHOENIX	1:00
Sept. 8—at N.Y. Giants	1:00
Sept. 15—at New Orleans	7:00
Sept. 22—at San Francisco	1:00
Sept. 29—GREEN BAY	1:00
Oct. 6—Open date	
Oct. 13—SAN DIEGO	1:00
Oct. 20—at L.A. Raiders	1:00
Oct. 27—at Atlanta	1:00
Nov. 3—NEW ORLEANS	1:00
Nov. 10—KANSAS CITY	1:00
Nov. 17—at Detroit	4:00
Nov. 25—SAN FRANCISCO (Mon.)	6:00
Dec. 1—WASHINGTON	1:00
Dec. 8—ATLANTA	1:00
Dec. 15—at Minnesota	12:00
Dec. 22—at Seattle	5:00

All times local.

All games Sunday unless noted.

1990 RESULTS

Sept. 9—at Green Bay	24-36
Sept. 16—at Tampa Bay	35-14
Sept. 23—PHILADELPHIA	21-27
Sept. 30—Open date	
Oct. 7—CINCINNATI (OT)	31-34
Oct. 14—at Chicago	9-38
Oct. 21—ATLANTA	44-24
Oct. 29—at Pittsburgh	10-41
Nov. 4—HOUSTON	17-13
Nov. 11—N.Y. GIANTS	7-31
Nov. 18—DALLAS	21-24
Nov. 25—at San Francisco	28-17
Dec. 2—at Cleveland	38-23
Dec. 9—NEW ORLEANS	20-24
Dec. 17—SAN FRANCISCO	10-26
Dec. 23—at Atlanta	13-20
Dec. 31—at New Orleans	17-20

1990 LEADERS

Scoring (kicking): Mike Lansford, 87 pts. (42/43 PATs, 15/24 FGs).
Scoring (touchdowns): Cleveland Gary, 90 pts. (14 rushing, 1 receiving).
Passing: Jim Everett, 3,989 yds. (554 att., 307 comp., 55.4%, 23 TDs, 17 int.).
Rushing: Cleveland Gary, 808 yds. (204 att., 4.0 avg., 14 TDs).
Receptions: Henry Ellard, 76 (1,294 yds., 17.0 avg., 4 TDs).
Interceptions: Bobby Humphery, 4 (52 yds., 1 TD); Vince Newsome, 4 (47 yds., 0 TDs).
Tackles: Vince Newsome, 92 (74 solo, 18 assisted).
Sacks: Kevin Greene, 13 (72 yds.).
Punting: Keith English, 39.2 avg. (68 punts, 2,663 yds., 0 blocked).
Punt returns: Darryl Henley, 10.3 avg. (19 att., 195 yds., 0 TDs).
Kickoff returns: Gaston Green, 22.4 avg. (25 att., 560 yds., 1 TD).

1990 FANTASY STATISTICS

Statistics included for current members of 1991 roster only.

Name	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING				Defensive TDs	Total TDs
	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	18-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs		
Anderson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	4
Delpino	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Ellard	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	4
Everett	8	9	6	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
Faison	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Gary	-	-	-	-	11	3	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
Johnson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
McGee	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Pagel	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Zendejas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	-	20	-	-

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—The biggest question mark on the team involves the new four-man line, especially at tackle, where Alvin Wright and Mike Piel are the only returnees. There is no obvious third tackle, but Plan B signee Karl Wilson and rookie Robert Young will vie for time.

The other question marks involve ends Bill Hawkins, a 1989 first-round flop, and Kevin Greene, the team's only proven pass rusher. Hawkins could find life in the new 4-3 alignment, while Greene, who has recorded 46 sacks over the last three years as a linebacker/end, will have to adjust to becoming a pure down lineman in '91. If he can take the pounding, Greene should make Fisher's job a little easier.

Gerald Robinson, a Plan B free agent from San Diego, could win the left-end spot opposite Greene, with Hawkins and Brian Smith pushing for time.

LINEBACKERS—The switch to the 4-3 leaves question marks scattered throughout this unit, too.

Los Angeles appeared to solve one problem—the need for a speedy cover guy at right outside linebacker—by drafting UCLA's Roman Phifer in the second round.

There's talent among the incumbent linebackers—Frank Stams, Larry Kelm, Fred Strickland, Mike Wilcher and Brett Faryniarz—but will it convert to the 4-3? Only time will tell.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—Things aren't as bad as they seem, even though the Rams finished 27th in the league in pass defense.

Los Angeles helped itself on draft day by selecting Notre Dame cornerback Todd Lyght with its first pick. If former Pro Bowl cornerback Jerry Gray can return from arthroscopic knee surgery that ruined his '90 season, the Rams should be in good shape at cornerback. But veterans Darryl Henley and Latin Berry, two Plan B acquisitions, and fourth-round pick Robert Bailey should make cornerback the most competitive spot at training camp.

The Rams like returning safeties Pat Terrell, Anthony Newman and Michael Stewart, but they still must prove themselves in the new defense. Depth is a concern.

SPECIAL TEAMS

More changes. The Rams have replaced place-kicker Mike Lansford with Plan B veteran Tony Zendejas and signed former Rams punter Dale Hatcher, who will battle Keith English.

With Green gone to Denver, Delpino figures to handle most of the kickoff returns. Henley again will run back punts, if he can stay healthy.

Improving the coverage teams is an absolute must for the Rams, who were hurt by lousy field position in 1990.



Saints' 'grunts' may be poised for a serious run

By BRIAN ALLEE-WALSH
Times-Picayune

The 25th edition of the New Orleans Saints will head into the season poised, primed and confident despite coming off a frustrating year.

The Saints made their second-ever playoff appearance last season, winning a National Football Conference wild-card spot with an 8-8 record. The Saints reached the .500 level on the final night of the regular season after failing on six previous attempts to get even. Frustrating indeed.

From that struggle, club officials and players believe an NFC West championship could be born.

If an 8-8 season did anything, it showed, perhaps, that the Saints have matured as a franchise under President/General Manager Jim Finks and Coach Jim Mora. In the past, New Orleans probably would have wilted after 0-2 and 2-5 starts (which is how the Saints began 1990). They likely would have unraveled at the prospect of playing the bulk of the National Football League schedule with an inexperienced quarterback (Steve Walsh). And they might not have had the poise to win the final two games of the season—at San Francisco and at home against the Los Angeles Rams—that enabled them to reach postseason play.

A brief playoff appearance (the Saints were bounced, 16-6, by the Chicago



Growing pains: A so-so arm and lack of confidence in a new system were quarterback Steve Walsh's problems last season.

go Bears at Soldier Field), however, is not enough to silence many skeptics. After all, this is a franchise with two playoff appearances—but no playoff victories.

"We consider ourselves among the working-class elite," Walsh said. "I don't think we're the prima donna team like the 49ers with Joe (Montana) and Jerry (Rice) and all those MVPs they have. But we have a lot of grunts. We have more good-playing grunts than any other team. We have a lot of guys who have to work hard to be as good as we can be. At this point, we're ready to make a serious run at it."

COACHING

Amazingly, Mora and his staff are intact for a fifth consecutive year. The sole staff change under Mora's command occurred after the 1986 season, his first year at the Saints' helm.

New Orleans hasn't had a losing season since '86 and is now 46-33 under Mora, who coached two championship teams in the United States Football League's three-year existence.

Mora's strong work ethic and focused intensity have been stabilizing influences for a franchise that historically has knuckled under to adversity.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—Bobby Hebert is the key player here. He sat out last season in a contract dispute and, in his absence, New Orleans plummeted from No. 5 in league scoring in 1989 to 22nd last season. However, he and the Saints patched up their differences in early June and Hebert signed a new two-year deal.

He will arrive none too soon. Walsh, obtained in a trade with Dallas, replaced journeyman quarterback John Fourcade as the Saints' starter after five games. For the most part, the Saints were a plodding team under Walsh, who finished 25th in passing efficiency (67.2 rating points) in the NFL. The Saints ranked 26th in passing offense, averaging a paltry 164.1 yards per game. A so-so arm and lack of confidence in a new system were Walsh's problems.

Hebert's return will likely result in an interesting training-camp duel with Walsh and Fourcade's release. The coaches like Mike Buck, a 1990 draftee who appears to be a solid prospect.

For the Saints to contend in the NFC West, this position must make a dramatic improvement from 1990.

RUNNING BACKS—There was uncer-

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: The line-backing corps, featuring Vaughan Johnson, Pat Swilling and Rickey Jackson, is one of the best in the league. An improved pass rush and better secondary play make the Saints' defense formidable.

Weaknesses: The quarterback position did not carry its load in 1990. Steve Walsh struggled as a starter for 11 games after being acquired in a trade with Dallas on September 25. The Saints still lack a deep-ball threat at wide receiver and a game-breaker in the backfield. A lack of experienced depth in the offensive line and at linebacker could pose problems if injuries occur.

Key to success: Bobby Hebert has returned after sitting out last year in a contract dispute. He must either wrest the starting job from Walsh or force the youngster to take the bull by the horns and become a better quarterback.

Sure sign of trouble: If the Saints' passing game—which ranked 26th in the NFL in 1990—continues to flounder.

That's a fact: New Orleans will open the NFL season at home for the 22nd time in the franchise's 25 years when it plays host to Seattle on September 1.

Coach Jim Mora says: "For any team to be real good, you have to have good play from your quarterback. We did not have good-enough play from that position last year."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	E. Martin	Turner	Carroll
LT	Haverdink	Cooper	
LG	Dombrowski	Griffith	
C	Hilgenberg	Leggett	
RG	Trapilo	Griffith	
RT	Brock	Cooper	
TE	Brenner	Tice	Scales
WR	Early	Perriman	Hill
QB	Walsh	Hebert	M. Buck
TB	Hilliard	Fenerty	Mayes
FB	Heyward	Manoa	

DEFENSE

LE	W. Martin	Miller	
NT	Wilks	Goff	Miller
RE	Turnbull	Smeenge	Miller
LOLB	Jackson	Forde	
LILB	Mills	Winston	
RILB	Johnson	J. Williams	
ROLB	Swilling	Forde	
LCB	Massey	V. Buck	
RCB	Cook	R. Jones	
SS	Maxie	Thompson	
FS	Atkins	Spears	

SPECIALISTS

K	Andersen		
P	Barnhardt		
KR	Fenerty	Atkins	Mayes
PR	V. Buck	Fenerty	

Continued

COACHES

Head coach: Jim Mora.
Assistant coaches:
 Paul Boudreau (offensive line).
 Dom Capers (defensive secondary).
 Vic Fangio (outside linebackers).
 Joe Marciano (tight ends/special teams).
 Russell Paternostro (strength and conditioning).
 John Pease (defensive line).
 Steve Sidwell (defensive coordinator/inside line-backers).
 Jim Skipper (running backs).
 Carl Smith (offensive coordinator/quarterbacks).
 Steve Walters (receivers).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1990 regular-season record: 8-8 (2nd in NFC West); 4-2 in division; 6-6 in conference; 5-3 at home; 3-5 on road.

1990 playoff record: Lost to Bears, 16-6, in NFC wild-card game.

Mora's regular-season record: 46-33 in five seasons with Saints.

Mora's postseason record: 0-2 in two playoffs with Saints.

Team record last five years: 46-33 (.582, ranks 5th in league in that span).

1990 team rankings:	NFC	NFL
Total offense.....	12	23
Rushing offense.....	8	16
Passing offense.....	12	26
Scoring offense.....	10	22
Total defense.....	8	15
Rushing defense.....	5	6
Passing defense.....	9	19
Scoring defense.....	3	8
Takeaways.....	T13	T22
Giveaways.....	T11	T24
Turnover differential.....	13	26
Sacks.....	5	10
Sacks allowed.....	1	T2

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

Stadium (capacity): Louisiana Superdome (69,065).
Ticket information: 504-522-2600.
Flagship radio station: WWL, 870 AM.
Training site: University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, La Crosse, Wis.; 504-733-0255.

1991 SCHEDULE

Sept. 1—SEATTLE	12:00
Sept. 8—at Kansas City	12:00
Sept. 15—L.A. RAMS	7:00
Sept. 22—MINNESOTA	12:00
Sept. 29—at Atlanta	1:00
Oct. 6—Open date	
Oct. 13—at Philadelphia	1:00
Oct. 20—TAMPA BAY	12:00
Oct. 27—CHICAGO	12:00
Nov. 3—at L.A. Rams	1:00
Nov. 10—SAN FRANCISCO	12:00
Nov. 17—at San Diego	1:00
Nov. 24—ATLANTA	7:00
Dec. 1—at San Francisco	1:00
Dec. 8—at Dallas	12:00
Dec. 16—L.A. RAIDERS (Mon.)	8:00
Dec. 22—at Phoenix	2:00

All times local. All games Sunday unless noted.

1990 RESULTS

Sept. 10—SAN FRANCISCO	12-13
Sept. 16—at Minnesota	3-32
Sept. 23—PHOENIX	28-7
Sept. 30—Open date	
Oct. 7—at Atlanta	27-28
Oct. 14—CLEVELAND	25-20
Oct. 21—at Houston	10-23
Oct. 28—DETROIT	10-27
Nov. 4—at Cincinnati	21-7
Nov. 11—TAMPA BAY	35-7
Nov. 18—at Washington	17-31
Nov. 25—ATLANTA	10-7
Dec. 2—at Dallas	13-17
Dec. 9—at L.A. Rams	24-20
Dec. 16—PITTSBURGH	6-9
Dec. 23—at San Francisco	13-10
Dec. 31—L.A. RAMS	20-17

1990 LEADERS

Scoring (kicking): Morten Andersen, 92 pts. (29/29 PATs, 21/27 FGs).
Scoring (touchdowns): Rueben Mayes, 42 pts. (7 rushing).
Passing: Steve Walsh, 1,970 yds. (327 att., 175 comp., 53.5%, 12 TDs, 13 int.).
Rushing: Craig Heyward, 599 yds. (129 att., 4.6 avg., 4 TDs).
Receptions: Eric Martin, 63 (912 yds., 14.5 avg., 5 TDs).
Interceptions: Brett Maxie, Toi Cook, Gene Atkins and Bennie Thompson, 2.
Tackles: Sam Mills, 112 (101 solo, 11 assisted).
Sacks: Pat Swilling, 11 (68 yds.).
Punting: Tommy Barnhardt, 42.7 avg. (70 punts, 2,990 yds., 1 blocked).
Punt returns: Vince Buck, 8.2 avg. (37 att., 305 yds., 0 TDs).
Kickoff returns: Gill Fenerty, 20.4 avg. (28 att., 572 yds., 0 TDs).

1990 FANTASY STATISTICS

Statistics included for current members of 1991 roster only.

Name	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING				Defensive TDs	Total TDs
	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	18-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs		
Andersen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	8	3	29	-	-
Brenner	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Early	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Fenerty	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Fourcade	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Heyward	-	-	-	3	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Hilliard	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
E. Martin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	5
Maxie	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	-	1
Mayes	-	-	-	-	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Miller	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2*	-	2
Perriman	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Scales	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Turner	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Walsh	6	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12

* fumble recovery. * interception.

tainty at this position heading into training camp. Tailback Dalton Hilliard, a Pro Bowler in 1989, is trying to overcome a knee injury (torn posterior cruciate) that sidelined him for 10 games last season. Also, oft-injured tailback Rueben Mayes endured a disappointing year after missing the 1989 season because of Achilles tendon problems. He gained only 3.7 yards per rush.

Gill Fenerty, who played three seasons in the Canadian Football League, is coming off a workmanlike NFL rookie season (355 yards rushing, 209 yards receiving). Fullback Craig (Ironhead) Heyward, who led the Saints in rushing with 599 yards, enjoyed two 100-yard games but wasn't a key contributor over the long haul. His weight problems are an annual source of controversy.

The position was fortified with Plan B signee Tim Manoa (formerly of Cleveland) and draftees Fred McAfee (Mississippi College) and Anthony Wallace (California). Veterans Buford Jordan and Bobby Morse will challenge.

RECEIVERS—This position continues to be a concern for Mora. The Saints still lack a deep threat, although veteran Eric Martin is a model of consistency with reliable hands and plenty of bravado.

Brett Perriman drew Mora's wrath by walking out of mini-camp last May. He has been expected to provide deep speed but hasn't shown why he was selected in the second round in 1988. Veteran Lonzell Hill, a No. 2 pick in 1987, might be facing the crossroads of his career with the Saints. He caught three passes for 35 yards in 1990 after catching 133 for 1,661 from 1987 through '89.

Floyd Turner lacks experience but shows promise. He averaged 18.9 yards on 21 receptions. Plan B signees Quinn Early (San Diego) and Pat Newman (Minnesota), No. 2 draft pick Wesley Carroll (Miami Hurricanes) and Gerald Alphin will make this a competitive battle for jobs.

Veterans Hoby Brenner, John Tice and Greg Scales give the Saints a solid look at tight end. Their primary responsibility is run-blocking.

LINEMEN—The starting five—tackles Stan Brock and Kevin Haverdink, guards Jim Dombrowski and Steve Trapilo and center Joel Hilgenberg—is a rock-solid unit.

These athletes excel at pass protection, as the team total of 20 sacks allowed (the second lowest in the league) attests. The running game averaged 115.6 yards, but that aspect suffered largely because of Hilliard's injury. Walsh's ineffectiveness also allowed teams to stack up against the run.

The biggest question mark here is depth.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—This was the area of biggest improvement in 1990.

End Renaldo Turnbull, the Saints' No. 1 draft pick in 1990, set a club rookie

1991 NEW ORLEANS SAINTS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	HT./WT.	Born	NFL Exp.	College	How acq.	'90 Games GP/GS
Buck, Mike	6-3/227	4-22-67	1	Maine	D6a/90	0/0
Fourcade, John	6-1/215	10-11-60	5	Mississippi	FA/87	7/5
Hebert, Bobby	6-4/215	8-19-60	6	Northwestern (La.) State	FA/85	0/0
Walsh, Steve	6-2/200	12-1-66	3	Miami (Fla.)	T-Dal/90	+13/11
RUNNING BACKS						
Fenerty, Gill	6-0/205	8-24-63	2	Holy Cross	D7/86	15/0
Heyward, Craig (FB)	5-11/260	9-26-66	4	Pittsburgh	D1/88	16/15
Hilliard, Dalton	5-8/204	1-21-64	6	Louisiana State	D2/86	6/6
Jordan, Buford (FB)	6-0/223	6-26-62	6	McNeese State	FA/90	6/0
Manoa, Tim (FB)	6-1/245	9-9-64	4	Penn State	PlanB/91	0/0
Mayes, Rueben	5-11/200	6-6-63	5	Washington State	D3a/86	15/8
McAfee, Fred	5-10/193	6-20-68	R	Mississippi College	D6/91	—
Morse, Bobby	5-10/213	10-3-65	4	Michigan State	T-Phi/89	10/0
Wallace, Anthony	6-0/191	7-8-69	R	California	D9/91	—
RECEIVERS						
Alphin, Gerald	6-3/220	5-21-64	2	Kansas State	FA/90	11/0
Brenner, Hoby (TE)	6-5/245	6-2-59	11	Southern California	D3b/81	16/16
Carroll, Wesley	6-0/183	9-6-67	R	Miami (Fla.)	D2/91	—
Early, Quinn	6-0/190	4-13-65	4	Iowa	PlanB/91	*14/3
Hill, Lonzell	5-11/189	9-25-65	5	Washington	D2/87	13/0
Martin, Eric	6-1/207	11-8-61	7	Louisiana State	D7/85	16/16
Newman, Patrick	5-11/189	9-10-68	1	Utah State	PlanB/91	0/0
Perriman, Brett	5-9/180	10-10-65	4	Miami (Fla.)	D2/88	16/15
Scales, Greg (TE)	6-4/253	5-9-66	4	Wake Forest	D5a/88	16/0
Tice, John (TE)	6-5/249	6-22-60	9	Maryland	D3a/83	16/4
Turner, Floyd	5-11/188	5-29-66	3	Northwestern (La.) State	D6/89	16/0
Wainright, Frank (TE)	6-3/236	10-10-67	R	Northern Colorado	D8/91	—
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Brock, Stan (T)	6-6/292	6-8-58	12	Colorado	D1/80	16/16
Cooper, Richard (T)	6-4/285	11-1-64	2	Tennessee	FA/89	2/1
Dombrowski, Jim (G/T)	6-5/298	10-19-63	6	Virginia	D1/86	16/16
Drabczak, Mark (G)	6-4/278	9-13-67	R	Minnesota	D12/91	—
Griffith, Brent (T)	6-6/300	12-14-65	1	Minnesota-Duluth	PlanB/91	0/0
Haverdink, Kevin (T)	6-5/285	10-20-65	3	Western Michigan	D5/89	15/15
Haynes, Hayward (G)	6-2/280	6-29-67	R	Florida State	D7/91	—
Hilgenberg, Joel (C/G)	6-2/252	7-10-62	8	Iowa	D4/84	16/16
Leggett, Brad (C)	6-4/270	1-16-66	1	Southern California	FA/90	0/0
Port, Chris (G)	6-5/290	11-2-67	1	Duke	D12/90	0/0
Trapilo, Steve (G)	6-5/281	9-20-64	5	Boston College	D4/87	16/16
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Goff, Robert (NT)	6-3/270	10-2-65	4	Auburn	T-TB/90	15/10
Martin, Wayne (E)	6-5/275	10-26-65	3	Arkansas	D1/89	11/11
Miller, Les (E)	6-7/293	3-1-65	5	Fort Hays State (Kan.)	PlanB/91	*14/10
Simmons, Michael (E)	6-4/269	11-14-65	2	Mississippi State	FA/89	16/3
Smeenge, Joel (E)	6-5/250	4-1-68	2	Western Michigan	D3/90	15/0
Turnbull, Renaldo (E)	6-4/248	1-5-66	2	West Virginia	D1/90	16/6
Wilks, Jim (NT)	6-5/275	3-12-58	11	San Diego State	D12/81	15/15
LINEBACKERS						
Brockman, Lonnie	6-3/230	3-14-68	1	West Virginia	D9a/90	0/0
Forde, Brian	6-3/225	11-1-63	4	Washington State	D7/89	16/0
Jackson, Rickey	6-2/243	3-20-58	11	Pittsburgh	D2/81	16/16
Johnson, Vaughan	6-3/235	3-24-62	6	North Carolina State	SupD1/84	16/16
Mills, Sam	5-9/225	6-3-59	6	Montclair State (N.J.)	FA/86	16/14
Ross, Scott	6-1/235	12-7-68	R	Southern California	D11/91	—
Swilling, Pat	6-3/242	10-25-64	6	Georgia Tech	D3b/86	16/16
Williams, James	6-0/230	10-10-68	2	Mississippi State	D6b/90	14/0
Winston, DeMond	6-2/239	9-14-68	2	Vanderbilt	D4/90	16/0
DEFENSIVE BACKS						
Atkins, Gene (S)	6-1/200	11-22-64	5	Florida A&M	D7/87	16/16
Buck, Vince (CB)	6-0/198	1-12-68	2	Central State (O.)	D2/90	16/1
Cook, Toi (CB)	5-11/188	12-3-64	5	Stanford	D8/87	16/16
Jones, Reggie (CB)	6-1/202	1-11-69	R	Memphis State	D5/91	—
Mack, Milton (CB)	5-11/182	9-20-63	5	Alcorn State	D5/87	16/2
Massey, Robert (CB)	5-10/182	2-17-67	3	North Carolina Central	D2/89	16/16
Maxie, Brett (S)	6-2/194	1-13-62	7	Texas Southern	FA/85	16/16
Spears, Ernest (S)	5-11/192	11-6-67	2	Southern California	D10b/90	16/0
Thompson, Bennie (S)	6-0/200	2-10-63	2	Grambling State	FA/89	16/2
SPECIALISTS						
Andersen, Morten (K)	6-2/221	8-19-60	10	Michigan State	D4/82	16/0
Barnhardt, Tommy (P)	6-2/207	6-11-63	5	North Carolina	FA/89	16/0

OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP
 Rick Aelits, TE; Craig Callahan, LB; Leon Cole, DE; Robert Dodd, T; Spencer-Hammond, LB; Mike Keim, T; Calvin Nicholson, CB; Bobby Pope, CB; Bobby Sign, G/C; Kerry Simien, WR; Pat Stant, LB; John Thornton, DE; Pat Tingelhoff, WR; Kenny Vines, G/C; Lorenzo Ward, S; Todd Wheeler, C; Reggie Williams, WR.

*Not with Saints in 1990.
 †Includes totals with both Saints and another NFL team in 1990.
 Key to abbreviations on page 160.

DID YOU KNOW...

... that the Saints' No. 1 rusher of 1990, Craig Heyward, gained only 599 yards? It was the lowest total by a Saints leader since George Rogers rushed for a team-high 535 yards in the strike-shortened season (nine games) of 1982.

record with nine sacks. Turnbull, veteran nose tackle Jim Wilks, nose tackle Robert (Pig) Goff and end Wayne Martin (No. 1 draftee in '89) make this unit strong.

The Saints' performance against the run in the playoff loss to Chicago emphasized the need to get more physical up front. The Saints signed versatile lineman Les Miller from San Diego during Plan B. Also, Michael Simmons and a heavier Joel Smeenge will compete.

Veteran Frank Warren could provide additional depth if he is reinstated to the NFL after missing the 1990 season because of repeated drug problems.

LINEBACKERS—Once again, the four linebackers will be the team's strength. The key here is keeping all four—Vaughan Johnson, Sam Mills, Pat Swilling (11 sacks) and Rickey Jackson—healthy.

Inside linebacker Johnson became a million-dollar player during the off-season, signing a four-year contract in March. Arguably, he is one of the game's best linebackers.

Veteran Brian Forde and second-year players DeMond Winston and James Williams round out the position.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—New Orleans went from the 26th-ranked pass defense in 1989 to No. 19 in '90. A better pass rush was one reason, and improved secondary play was another.

Still, the Saints made the fewest interceptions, eight, in the NFL last season. Without question, that figure must climb significantly.

All four starters return—cornerbacks Robert Massey and Toi Cook and safeties Brett Maxie and Gene Atkins. The top reserves are safeties Bennie Thompson and Ernest Spears and corner Vince Buck.

Draft pick Reggie Jones (Memphis State) is expected to offer a stiff challenge. He appears versatile enough to play either corner or safety.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Anytime a kicker like Morten Andersen is on the field, a team has a chance to win. But his teammates have to give him the opportunity first.

Andersen will be playing his 10th NFL season. He is coming off another decent year in which he converted 21 of 27 field-goal attempts and scored 92 points.

Punter Tommy Barnhardt averaged 42.7 yards per punt, sixth best in the NFL last season. He had 20 punts downed inside the 20.

Although Fenerty, Atkins and Vince Buck helped improve the return game, the Saints still don't possess a break-away threat.

New Orleans did an excellent job of covering punts and kickoffs last season, allowing the opposition a seven-yard average on punt returns (sixth in the NFL) and 16.2 yards on kickoffs (No. 2 in the league).



49ers' slippage is showing—at least a little bit

By IRA MILLER
San Francisco Chronicle

The San Francisco 49ers, winners of 28 of 32 regular-season games over the last two years, appear headed for a drop-off of sorts in 1991.

Fielding a younger team than usual and dishing out a smaller payroll, the 49ers will be hard pressed to match the 14-2 record they achieved in 1989 and 1990. It might even be difficult to reach 12 victories, which is the number of wins San Francisco has averaged over the last eight years.

The key question, then, is just how far the 49ers might fall.

"No one (team) has been able to succeed for really a long, long period of time," 49ers backup quarterback Steve Young said. "We're at the point now where we need to push through the barrier to keep this team on top."

It won't be easy. Gone are such mainstays of the 1980s as Ronnie Lott and Roger Craig, both of whom joined the Los Angeles Raiders as Plan B free agents, and Keena Turner, who retired to a position in the 49ers' front office. A year ago, San Francisco still had five players who were members of all four of its Super Bowl championship teams; now Joe Montana is the only one left.

For the first time in years, too, the 49ers went to training camp with long-term needs to fill and short-term questions to ponder. They will begin the year with unproven starters at half-



Weighty subject: Defenses will have to cope with a heavier Jerry Rice this year.

back and strong safety, a high-mileage free safety and a lack of depth at linebacker.

There also is the potential for a quarterback controversy. Montana returns following the most serious injury he ever suffered in a single game, a hand

fracture that knocked him out of the National Football Conference championship game. Young gives signs of shedding his quiet compliance as he enters his fifth season with the 49ers. Having thrown only one pass in the first 14 games last season, Young has made it clear he expects to play this year.

COACHING

One Bay Area columnist has commented that Coach George Seifert has proved he can drive a car, but hasn't shown he can build one. That's a question even Seifert acknowledges as he sets about making changes to keep the 49ers competitive.

In his first two years as coach, Seifert has done an enviable job by taking over right where Bill Walsh had left off. But the persistent question about Seifert concerns not his skill to coach the 49ers; instead, it focuses on his ability to rebuild the team, a process that is now under way.

Of the 45 players used by the 49ers against the Giants in last season's NFC championship game, 17 either were at least 30 years old or reached 30 last spring. By the start of training camp, however, six of the players in that group were history, as were several members of the 49ers' over-30 gang who had been on injured reserve at the time.

"The overhaul is just a natural process," Seifert said. "I don't sit here right now and say this team has got to be dramatically overhauled. I think it's basically still a damn good football team. . . . We're certainly not going in and saying we've got to rebuild this baby."

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: The passing game of Joe Montana to Jerry Rice, which gives the 49ers potential to score at any time, and a defensive line that has been strong against the run. Last year, the 49ers held opponents to 3.6 yards per carry, which tied for third best in the league.

Weaknesses: The 49ers lack a running game, depending too much on the Montana-to-Rice tandem. Last year, San Francisco's No. 1 rusher, Dexter Carter, gained only 460 yards. Also, the 49ers' defense lacks real speed, although several of the linemen are quick.

Keys to success: Keeping Montana and Rice healthy, developing at least an adequate ground attack and having the defensive line exert control.

Sure sign of trouble: An injury to a starting safety, linebacker or wide receiver. The 49ers lack experienced depth.

That's a fact: In the last three years, the visiting team has won every game in the 49ers/Rams home-and-home series.

Coach George Seifert says: "We still want to go after a championship (this) year, but we've got to be more youth-conscious."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Taylor	R. Lewis	Mandley
LT	Paris	Foster	Pollack
LG	McIntyre	Foster	
C	Sapolu	Thomas	Caliguire
RG	Barton	Wiese	Foster
RT	Wallace	Siglar	Boatswain
TE	Jones	Williams	Walls
WR	Rice	Sherrard	Beach
QB	Montana	Young	Bono
HB	D. Carter	Henderson	Watters
FB	Rathman	Sydney	

DEFENSE

LE	Holt	D. Brown	
NT	M. Carter	Washington	Burt
RE	Fagan	Roberts	D. Brown
LOLB	Haley	Harrison	
LILB	DeLong	Donahue	Robinson
RILB	Walter	Etienne	
ROLB	Romanowski	Johnson	Jordan
LCB	Pollard	Davis	S. Brown
RCB	Griffin	K. Lewis	
SS	Jackson	Whitmore	Cox
FS	Waymer	Bowles	Plummer

SPECIALISTS

K	Cofer	Jones	
P	Helton	Cofer	
KR	D. Carter	Watters	
PR	Taylor	Griffin	Canley

Seifert's biggest challenge in 1991 will be to coax a running game out of a pass-oriented offense that does not have a proven National Football League rusher.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—Provided there is no unsettling controversy, the 49ers remain as well armed as any team in the league. At times last year, Montana looked as sharp as he ever had; other times, he seemed to be trying to do too much.

While some critics wondered if the veteran should have been rested at times, Montana showed no signs of wear during the 49ers' playoff victory over Washington, a game in which they virtually gave up any pretense of running and came out throwing. More likely, what happened during the season is that Montana got worn down from the pressure of carrying the team without help from a running game.

Whatever the case, there are signs that Young will get more playing time this year, and it's up to Seifert to work that out without creating a divisive situation with his quarterbacks. Seifert thinks that Young's ability to run might create some opportunities against the strong pass-rush defenses that have been trouble for the 49ers' line.

RUNNING BACKS—With Craig gone, Dexter Carter, the 49ers' first-round draft choice in 1990, will be asked to prove he's a capable starting back. Carter showed some flashes last year, and his quickness will be welcomed by the 49ers' line.

Carter, however, probably isn't big or durable enough to play full time. The 49ers are hoping that third-year running back Keith Henderson can stay healthy; they counted on him heavily a year ago, but a knee injury knocked him out for most of the season.

Last year, the 49ers averaged just 3.8 yards per rush, a figure that tied for last place in the NFC. Seeing muscle as perhaps one answer to the problem, Seifert is promoting talk of a possible two-fullback offense at times with Tom Rathman and Harry Sydney. The 49ers also expect to get some help from Ricky Watters, their second-round draft choice. Watters, from Notre Dame, comes to the 49ers with more impressive college credentials than Roger Craig possessed.

RECEIVERS—Jerry Rice, who in the last couple of years concentrated on reducing his weight to improve his speed, said he planned to play a little heavier this year to fight off defensive backs and linebackers. A few extra pounds shouldn't make much difference in his run at the league's receiving records.

What Rice needs is help, and that depends largely on the health of the other two key wideouts, John Taylor and Mike Sherrard. During the brief time all three were healthy last year, the

1991 SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL Exp.	College	How acq.	'90 Games
Bono, Steve	6-4/215	5-11-62	7	UCLA	FA/89	0/0
Montana, Joe	6-2/195	6-11-56	13	Notre Dame	D3/79	15/15
Young, Steve	6-2/200	10-11-61	7	Brigham Young	T-TB/87	6/1
RUNNING BACKS						
Canley, Sheldon	5-9/195	4-19-68	R	San Jose State	D7/91	—
Carter, Dexter	5-9/170	9-15-67	2	Florida State	D1/90	16/5
Henderson, Keith (FB)	6-1/220	8-4-66	4	Georgia	D3/89	2/0
Rathman, Tom (FB)	6-1/232	10-7-62	6	Nebraska	D3/86	16/16
Sydney, Harry (FB)	6-0/217	6-26-59	5	Kansas	FA/87	16/0
Tillman, Spencer	5-11/206	4-21-64	5	Oklahoma	PlanB/89	16/0
Watters, Ricky	6-1/212	4-7-69	R	Notre Dame	D2/91	—
RECEIVERS						
Beach, Sanjay	6-1/190	2-21-66	1	Colorado State	FA/90	0/0
Hargain, Tony	6-0/188	12-26-67	R	Oregon	D8/91	—
Ingram, Darryl (TE)	6-3/240	5-2-66	2	California	FA/91	0/0
Jones, Brent (TE)	6-4/230	2-12-63	5	Santa Clara (Calif.)	FA/87	16/16
Lewis, Ronald	5-11/173	3-25-68	2	Florida State	D3/90	8/0
Mandley, Pete	5-10/192	7-29-61	7	Northern Arizona	FA/91	*5/2
Rice, Jerry	6-2/200	10-13-62	7	Mississippi Valley State	D1/85	16/16
Sherrard, Mike	6-2/187	6-21-63	3	UCLA	PlanB/89	7/2
Slaughter, Bobby	5-11/171	4-24-68	R	Louisiana Tech	D11/91	—
Taylor, John	6-1/185	3-31-62	5	Delaware State	D3c/86	14/14
Walls, Wesley (TE)	6-5/246	2-26-66	3	Mississippi	D2/89	16/0
Williams, Jamie (TE)	6-4/245	2-25-60	9	Nebraska	PlanB/89	16/0
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Barton, Harris (T)	6-4/280	4-19-64	5	North Carolina	D1a/87	16/16
Boatswain, Harry (T)	6-4/295	6-26-69	R	New Haven (Conn.)	D5a/91	—
Bowles, Scott (T)	6-5/280	12-20-67	R	North Texas	D6/91	—
Caliguire, Dean (C)	6-2/282	3-2-67	1	Pittsburgh	D4/90	IR
Foster, Roy (G)	6-4/290	5-24-60	10	Southern California	PlanB/91	*16/3
McIntyre, Guy (G)	6-3/265	2-17-61	8	Georgia	D3/84	16/16
Neville, Tom (G)	6-5/298	9-4-61	4	Fresno State	FA/91	0/0
Paris, Bubba (T)	6-6/299	10-6-60	9	Michigan	D2/82	16/16
Pollack, Frank (T/G)	6-5/285	11-5-67	2	Northern Arizona	D6/90	15/0
Radloff, Wayne (C)	6-5/277	5-17-61	6	Georgia	PlanB/90	IR
Sapoly, Jesse (C)	6-4/260	3-10-61	6	Hawaii	D11/83	16/16
Siglar, Ricky (G/T)	6-7/296	6-14-66	2	San Jose State	FA/89	15/0
Thomas, Chuck (C)	6-3/280	12-24-60	6	Oklahoma	FA/87	15/0
Wallace, Steve (T)	6-5/276	12-27-64	6	Auburn	D4a/86	16/16
Wiese, Brett (G/C)	6-4/285	8-6-66	1	Washington	FA/90	0/0
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
Brown, Dennis (E)	6-4/290	11-6-67	3	Washington	D2/90	15/0
Burt, Jim (NT)	6-1/270	6-7-59	11	Miami (Fla.)	FA/89	11/3
Carter, Michael (NT)	6-2/285	10-29-60	8	Southern Methodist	D5/84	15/13
Confer, Cliff (E)	6-3/270	8-13-68	R	Michigan State	D12/91	—
Fagan, Kevin (E)	6-3/260	4-25-63	5	Miami (Fla.)	D4c/86	16/16
Hodge, Milford (E)	6-3/278	3-11-61	5	Washington State	FA/91	0/0
Holbrook, Byron (NT)	6-5/280	11-8-67	R	Alabama	D10/91	—
Holt, Pierce (E)	6-4/280	1-1-62	4	Angelo State (Tex.)	D2a/88	16/16
Mitz, Alonzo (E)	6-4/278	6-5-63	5	Florida	FA/91	0/0
Roberts, Larry (E)	6-3/275	6-2-63	6	Alabama	D2/86	6/0
Smith, Sean (E)	6-4/272	3-27-65	4	Grambling State	FA/91	0/0
Washington, Ted (NT/E)	6-4/299	4-13-68	R	Louisville	D1/91	—
Wells, Kent (NT)	6-4/295	7-25-67	2	Nebraska	FA/91	*6/0
LINEBACKERS						
DeLong, Keith	6-2/235	8-14-67	3	Tennessee	D1/89	16/13
Donahue, Mitch	6-2/254	2-4-68	R	Wyoming	D4/91	—
Etienne, LeRoy	6-2/245	7-25-66	2	Nebraska	FA/90	10/0
Goss, Antonio	6-4/228	8-11-66	3	North Carolina	D12/89	0/0
Haley, Charles (DE)	6-5/230	1-6-64	6	James Madison	D4/86	16/16
Harrison, Martin (DE)	6-5/240	9-20-67	1	Washington	D10/90	2/0
Harvey, Stacey	6-3/250	3-8-65	2	Arizona State	FA/91	0/0
Johnson, John	6-3/230	5-8-68	R	Clemson	D2a/91	—
Jordan, Darin	6-2/245	12-4-64	2	Northeastern	PlanB/91	0/0
Robinson, Jeroy	6-2/245	6-14-68	2	Texas A&M	PlanB/91	*6/0
Romanowski, Bill	6-4/231	4-2-66	4	Boston College	D3/88	16/16
Walter, Michael	6-3/238	11-30-60	9	Oregon	W-Dal/84	3/3
Washington, Chris	6-4/240	3-6-62	7	Iowa State	PlanB/91	*8/0
DEFENSIVE BACKS						
Bowles, Todd (S)	6-2/205	11-18-63	6	Temple	PlanB/91	*16/16
Brown, Steve (CB)	6-0/187	3-20-60	9	Oregon	PlanB/91	*16/0
Cox, Greg (S/LB)	6-0/217	1-6-65	4	San Jose State	PlanB/90	13/0
Davis, Eric (CB)	5-11/178	1-26-68	2	Jacksonville (Ala.) State	D2a/90	16/0
Griffin, Don (CB)	6-0/176	3-17-64	6	Middle Tennessee State	D6/86	16/16
Hanks, Merton (CB)	6-2/185	3-12-68	R	Iowa	D5/91	—
Jackson, Johnny (S)	6-1/204	1-11-67	3	Houston	D5/89	16/4
Lewis, Kevin (CB)	5-11/173	11-14-66	2	Northwestern (La.) State	FA/90	10/0
Plummer, Bruce (S)	6-0/198	9-1-64	5	Mississippi State	FA/91	*8/0
Pollard, Darryl (CB)	5-11/187	5-11-64	5	Weber State	FA/88	16/16
Riddick, Louis (S)	6-2/217	3-15-69	R	Pittsburgh	D9/91	—
Waymer, Dave (S)	6-1/188	7-1-58	12	Notre Dame	PlanB/90	16/9
Whitmore, Dave (S)	6-0/235	7-6-67	2	Stephen F. Austin State	PlanB/91	*16/0
SPECIALISTS						
Cofer, Mike (K)	6-1/160	2-19-64	4	North Carolina State	FA/88	16/0
Helton, Barry (P)	6-3/205	1-2-65	4	Colorado	D4/88	16/0
Mojisejenko, Ralf (P)	6-3/212	1-28-63	7	Michigan State	FA/91	*12/0

*Not with 49ers in 1990.

Key to abbreviations on page 160.

*Includes totals with both 49ers and another NFL team in 1990.

Continued

COACHES

Head coach: George Seifert.
Assistant coaches:
 Jerry Attaway (physical development coordinator).
 Dwaine Board (defensive coaches assistant).
 Tommy Hart (defensive assistant).
 Mike Holmgren (offensive coordinator/quarterbacks).
 Sherman Lewis (receivers).
 John Marshall (defensive line).
 Bobb McKittrick (offensive line).
 Bill McPherson (defensive coordinator).
 Ray Rhodes (defensive backs).
 Ray Sherman (running backs).
 Lynn Stiles (special teams coordinator/tight ends).
 Bob Zeman (linebackers).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1990 regular-season record: 14-2 (1st in NFC West); 4-2 in division; 10-2 in conference; 6-2 at home; 8-0 on road.

1990 playoff record: Defeated Redskins, 28-10, in NFC divisional playoff game; lost to Giants, 15-13, in NFC championship game.

Seifert's regular-season record: 28-4 in two seasons with 49ers.

Seifert's postseason record: 4-1 in two playoffs with 49ers (1-0 in Super Bowl).

Team record last five years: 61-17-1 (.772, ranks 1st in league in that span).

1990 team rankings:	NFC	NFL
Total offense.....	1	2
Rushing offense.....	9	18
Passing offense.....	1	2
Scoring offense.....	4	8
Total defense.....	2	3
Rushing defense.....	2	2
Passing defense.....	6	12
Scoring defense.....	2	2
Takeaways.....	T8	T13
Giveaways.....	5	10
Turnover differential.....	5	9
Sacks.....	4	8
Sacks allowed.....	5	12

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

Stadium (capacity): Candlestick Park (66,390).
Ticket information: 415-468-2249.
Flagship radio station: KGO, 810 AM.
Training site: Sierra College, Rocklin, Calif.; 916-624-8241.

1991 SCHEDULE

Sept. 2	—at N.Y. Giants (Mon.)	9:00
Sept. 8	—SAN DIEGO	1:00
Sept. 15	—at Minnesota	12:00
Sept. 22	—L.A. RAMS	1:00
Sept. 29	—at L.A. Raiders	1:00
Oct. 6	—Open date	
Oct. 13	—at Atlanta	1:00
Oct. 20	—DETROIT	1:00
Oct. 27	—at Philadelphia	1:00
Nov. 3	—ATLANTA	1:00
Nov. 10	—at New Orleans	12:00
Nov. 17	—PHOENIX	1:00
Nov. 25	—at L.A. Rams (Mon.)	6:00
Dec. 1	—NEW ORLEANS	1:00
Dec. 8	—at Seattle	1:00
Dec. 14	—KANSAS CITY (Sat.)	1:00
Dec. 23	—CHICAGO (Mon.)	6:00

All times local.

All games Sunday unless noted.

1990 RESULTS

Sept. 10	—at New Orleans	13-12
Sept. 16	—WASHINGTON	26-13
Sept. 23	—ATLANTA	19-13
Sept. 30	—Open date	
Oct. 7	—at Houston	24-21
Oct. 14	—at Atlanta	45-35
Oct. 21	—PITTSBURGH	27-7
Oct. 28	—CLEVELAND	20-17
Nov. 4	—at Green Bay	24-20
Nov. 11	—at Dallas	24-6
Nov. 18	—TAMPA BAY	31-7
Nov. 25	—L.A. RAMS	17-28
Dec. 3	—N.Y. GIANTS	7-3
Dec. 9	—at Cincinnati (OT)	20-17
Dec. 17	—at L.A. Rams	26-10
Dec. 23	—NEW ORLEANS	10-13
Dec. 30	—at Minnesota	20-17

1990 LEADERS

Scoring (kicking): Mike Cofer, 111 pts. (39/39 PATs, 24/36 FGs).
Scoring (touchdowns): Jerry Rice, 78 pts. (13 receiving).
Passing: Joe Montana, 3,944 yds. (520 att., 321 comp., 61.7%, 26 TDs, 16 int.).
Rushing: Dexter Carter, 460 yds. (114 att., 4.0 avg., 1 TD).
Receptions: Jerry Rice, 100 (1,502 yds., 15.0 avg., 13 TDs).
Interceptions: Dave Waymer, 7 (64 yds., 0 TDs).
Tackles: Bill Romanowski, 79 (68 solo, 11 assisted).
Sacks: Charles Haley, 16 (107 yds.).
Punting: Barry Helton, 36.8 avg. (69 punts, 2,537 yds., 0 blocked).
Punt returns: John Taylor, 8.2 avg. (26 att., 212 yds., 0 TDs).
Kickoff returns: Dexter Carter, 19.1 avg. (41 att., 783 yds., 0 TDs).

1990 FANTASY STATISTICS

Statistics included for current members of 1991 roster only.

Name	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING				Defensive TDs	Total TDs
	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	18-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs		
D. Carter	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cofer	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	5	2	39	—	—
Jones	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	5
Montana	7	12	7	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	27
Rathman	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Rice	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	9	2	7	—	—	—	—	—	13
Sherrard	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Sydney	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Taylor	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	7
Young	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2

49ers' offense flourished. But when Taylor and Sherrard both were hurt, defenses were able to collapse around Rice.

Even when Taylor returned, he seemed to be far less than 100 percent, and Rice became both the big-play man and the possession receiver for the 49ers. Rice caught a career-high 100 passes a year ago—18 more than any other player in the league.

Tight end Brent Jones is overlooked among the big names, but he has a knack for getting open downfield and his hands are sure. His 56 receptions last year ranked second among NFL tight ends.

LINEMEN—This has been something of a problem area for two years. Both seasons, training-camp holdouts reduced the time the linemen had to work together, and tinkering by the coaches further muddled the water.

About all that seems certain now is that guard/tackle Harris Barton, center Jesse Sapolu and left guard Guy McIntyre, a two-time Pro Bowler who excels as a pulling blocker in the open field, would remain starters.

Two years ago, the 49ers tried a job-sharing system at two positions and won the Super Bowl. Last season, they switched Barton from right tackle to right guard and Steve Wallace from part-time duty at left tackle to full-time duty at right tackle.

Left tackle Bubba Paris eventually got so out of shape last season that he had great difficulty playing. This year, he has been given an ultimatum about his weight.

The 49ers have signed veteran guard Roy Foster from Miami as a Plan B free agent. Among the options being weighed during the off-season were moving Foster to left tackle, returning Barton to right tackle, leaving Foster at guard and reinstating the left-tackle shuffle with Wallace and Paris.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—Without question, this is the strongest area of the team. Ends Pierce Holt and Kevin Fagan both played at a Pro Bowl level last year, albeit without the recognition. Charles Haley, nominally listed as a linebacker but used almost exclusively to rush the passer, has been voted to the Pro Bowl twice.

End Dennis Brown, a second-round draft choice in 1990, had a good rookie season and shows considerable promise. He must keep his weight down, though. Ted Washington, this year's top pick, also is a potential weight problem who had a college reputation for playing hot and cold. But Washington, who played collegiately at Louisville, was highly rated in the draft, and he figures to help if the 49ers' coaches are able to bring out his potential.

Washington could be the long-term eventual replacement for nose tackle Michael Carter, who continues to fight off a recurring problem with his foot.

LINEBACKERS—Keith DeLong, the team's first-round draft choice in 1989, moved into the starting lineup for much of last season because of an injury to Michael Walter. DeLong proved himself as a hitter, often making eye-popping tackles, but he will need to improve his recognition of plays until it becomes instinctive.

The plan is for DeLong to move into the role as the strongside plugger against the running game, a position formerly manned by Matt Millen (who signed with the Washington Redskins via Plan B). Walter, the 49ers' leading tackler for several years, is back, but he'll turn 31 during the season, and the suddenly age-conscious 49ers know they must start thinking about a successor.

San Francisco doesn't have a veteran backup inside linebacker, a lack of depth that is unusual for the 49ers. For that matter, Seifert's team doesn't have much depth on the outside, either, where Bill Romanowski established himself as a full-time starter last year but still must show more consistency.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—Dave Waymer, a Plan B signee from New Orleans in 1990, was a pleasant surprise. He will take over from Lott as the starting free safety. Waymer, thought to be washed up by the Saints, led the 49ers with



Charles in charge: Charles Haley, who paced the 49ers with 16 sacks in '90, has been voted to the Pro Bowl twice.

seven interceptions and was a visible, positive influence on the team's younger defensive backs. But Waymer is 33, and he isn't as strong as Lott against the run.

Johnny Jackson, a third-year player, is the 49ers' third strong safety in three years. He follows Jeff Fuller, whose career was ended by an injury that left him with a paralyzed arm, and Chet Brooks, who was finished with the 49ers at age 25 because of arthritic knees.

Don Griffin and Darryl Pollard remain the starting cornerbacks.

The 49ers, in need of more depth for their nickel defense, invested heavily in Plan B, but the biggest boost for the secondary would be the development of corners Eric Davis and Kevin Lewis, who were rookies last season.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Mike Cofer is a dependable field-goal kicker, but punter Barry Helton suffered through a season-long slump in 1990, and only the success of the team saved his job. Helton, who ranked last in the NFL with a 36.8-yard average, faces a challenge from leftfooted veteran Ralf Mojsiejenko.

Taylor is the team's best punt returner, but because of his value as a receiver, the 49ers hope to ease him out of that high-risk duty. There's also a need to improve on kickoff returns, a task handled primarily by Dexter Carter last year.

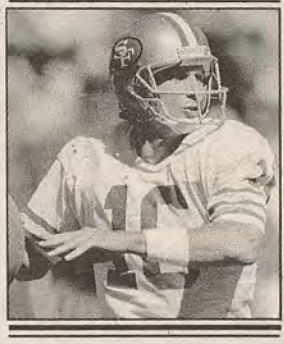


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1992 NFL DR

When NFL teams ponder the future and seek new

Compiled by Mel Kiper Jr., Draft Publications, Inc.

Though their draft value will rise or fall depending on the number of underclassmen who decide to turn pro early, the following collegians will attract the greatest interest from

scouts entering the 1992 National Football League draft. Many are fourth-year juniors who could return for a final season of collegiate eligibility but are not expected to do so.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS

Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Comment
1. David Klingler, Houston.....	6-3/210	The best senior player available.
2. Casey Weldon, Florida State.....	6-1/194	May lead Seminoles to national title.
3. Alex Van Pelt, Pittsburgh.....	6-2/200	Has all the physical attributes.
4. Will Furrer, Virginia Tech.....	6-3/207	His stock could skyrocket by '92.
5. Elvis Grbac, Michigan.....	6-5/220	Big-time passer in staid offense.
6. Mike Pawlawski, California.....	6-3/205	A brilliant Bear at times.
7. Jason Palumbis, Stanford.....	6-3/205	Productive pocket passer.
8. Tony Sacca, Penn State.....	6-5/225	Not yet a big-time player.
9. Bobby Fuller, South Carolina.....	6-2/207	Effective in a controlled attack.
10. Chris Pedersen, Iowa State.....	6-3/220	Underrated, but has a lot of ability.

RUNNING BACKS

HALFBACKS

Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Comment
1. Siran Stacy, Alabama.....	5-11/195	Top talent coming off knee injury.
2. Glyn Milburn, Stanford.....	5-9/175	Scatback with superior quickness.
3. Mazio Royster, Southern Cal.....	6-1/195	Continues rich Trojan TB tradition.
4. Vaughn Dunbar, Indiana.....	6-0/207	May be Hoosiers' best RB ever.
5. Steve McGuire, Miami (Fla.).....	5-11/219	The best big back in the country.
6. Randy Cuthbert, Duke.....	6-3/220	Needs to regain sophomore form.
7. Rodney Culver, Notre Dame.....	6-0/220	Solid all-around performer.
8. Willie McClendon, Florida.....	6-0/223	Gutty runner with sure hands.
9. Nikki Fisher, Virginia.....	5-11/220	No-nonsense north-south runner.
10. T.C. Wright, San Diego State.....	5-10/190	Exciting player on West Coast.

FULLBACKS

Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Comment
1. Edgar Bennett, Florida State.....	6-1/222	Has a chance to shine in 1991.
2. Tommy Vardell, Stanford.....	6-2/232	Near the goal line, he gets it in.
3. Scottie Graham, Ohio State.....	5-10/220	Stars in a deep, talented backfield.
4. Tony Brooks, Notre Dame.....	6-2/223	Will duel super soph Jerome Bettis.
5. Kevin Smith, UCLA.....	6-4/256	Has tons of raw physical skill.
6. Tony Kennedy, Clemson.....	6-1/230	Underrated player in the ACC.
7. Mario Hampton, Arizona.....	6-0/222	A good complementary player.
8. Scott McNair, Temple.....	6-0/215	Solid all-around performer.
9. Sam Gash, Penn State.....	5-11/227	Aptly named for style of play.
10. Michael Rhett, East Carolina.....	5-9/212	Has a great work ethic.

RECEIVERS

WIDE RECEIVERS

Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Comment
1. Carl Pickens, Tennessee.....	6-2/200	Top overall athlete in the draft.
2. Courtney Hawkins, Mich. St.....	5-9/184	An Andre Rison clone.
3. Patrick Rowe, San Diego State.....	6-1/200	Similar to Dallas No. 1 Alvin Harper.
4. Robert Brooks, South Carolina.....	6-0/175	The best-kept secret at WR.
5. Brian Treggs, California.....	5-10/170	Works well with QB Pawlawski.
6. Todd Kinchen, Louisiana State.....	6-0/192	Needs to shake the injury bug.
7. Jimmy Smith, Jackson State.....	6-1/196	A tough kid who runs well.
8. Gene Thomas, Maryland.....	6-0/180	Has impressive athletic ability.
9. Marcus Mickel, Virginia Tech.....	5-10/187	Consistent big-play performer.
10. Nate Turner, Nebraska.....	6-2/225	Could star in a pro-style offense.

TIGHT ENDS

Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Comment
1. Derek Brown, Notre Dame.....	6-7/243	An under-utilized blue-chip talent.
2. Mark Chmura, Boston College.....	6-6/237	Strong, tough and reliable.
3. Todd Harrison, N.C. State.....	6-4/250	A top-tight blocker.
4. Harold Heath, Jackson State.....	6-4/230	Standout in small-college ranks.
5. Carlos Treadway, NW'ern St.....	6-3/238	Relative unknown gets the job done.
6. Victor Hall, Auburn.....	6-3/228	Could shine in a passing offense.
7. Andrew Dees, Syracuse.....	6-6/258	Needs to put it all together.
8. Jeff Ellis, Ohio State.....	6-4/250	Stock will soar with big senior year.
9. Kelly Blackwell, TCU.....	6-3/242	Excellent hands and concentration.
10. Ray Rowe, San Diego State.....	6-3/245	Vital part of a wide-open offense.



Wolverine to watch: Michigan's Elvis Grbac is a big-time passer in a staid offense.

LINEMEN

CENTERS

Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Comment
1. Cal Dixon, Florida.....	6-4/284	This guy's too good for college.
2. Gene McGuire, Notre Dame.....	6-5/270	Plays well at many positions.
3. Jay Leeuwenburg, Colorado.....	6-3/265	Anchors an inexperienced line.
4. Todd McGuire, Tulsa.....	6-4/280	Former DL has adjusted well.
5. Tim Simpson, Illinois.....	6-2/284	One of the toughest linemen around.

GUARDS

Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Comment
1. Mirko Jurkovic, Notre Dame.....	6-5/281	Has a defensive temperament.
2. Claude Jones, Miami (Fla.).....	6-3/285	Consistent and well schooled.
3. William Boatwright, Va. Tech.....	6-2/303	Moves well for someone his size.
4. Ed Blake, Auburn.....	6-4/310	Leader of the Tigers' line.
5. Kevin Mancini, Florida State.....	6-3/272	A great tackle who may play guard.

TACKLES

Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Comment
1. Bernard Dafney, Tennessee.....	6-6/309	As good as Vols' two '91 No. 1 OTs.
2. Ray Roberts, Virginia.....	6-6/300	Neutralizes top pass rushers.
3. Greg Skrepenak, Michigan.....	6-6/320	Starter since first day in Ann Arbor.
4. Leon Searcy, Miami (Fla.).....	6-3/290	Will move to the left side this year.
5. John Ray, West Virginia.....	6-10/320	A huge man with lots of potential.

AFT PREVIEW

blood, these are the players they'll be examining

DEFENSE

LINEMEN

ENDS

Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Comment
1. Keith Hamilton, Pittsburgh	6-7/275	Top-five pick if he comes out early.
2. Larry Webster, Maryland	6-5/275	Needs to become more intense.
3. Anthony Hamlet, Miami (Fla.)	6-3/248	Similar to ex-'Cane Daniel Stubbs.
4. Roosevelt Collins, TCU	6-5/248	Cat-quick outside rusher.
5. Marc Boutte, Louisiana State	6-4/260	Agile player with closing speed.
6. Stacey Dillard, Oklahoma	6-7/280	Has potential to be first-round pick.
7. Santana Dotson, Baylor	6-5/258	Solid prospect anywhere on line.
8. Stacey Satterwhite, Okla. St.	6-6/270	Uses finesse to get job done.
9. James Harris, Temple	6-8/255	Tremendous height and wingspan.
10. Doug Rigby, Wyoming	6-5/255	The Cowboys' sack specialist.

TACKLES

Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Comment
1. Roy Barker, North Carolina	6-4/285	Good agility for a man his size.
2. Joel Steed, Colorado	6-3/280	A disruptive force in the middle.
3. Corey Mayfield, Oklahoma	6-3/250	Quick, strong and intense.
4. George Williams, Notre Dame	6-3/298	Ideal middleman in the 3-4.
5. Marcus Woods, Oregon	6-2/283	Underrated Pac-10 performer.
6. Brian Kelly, UCLA	6-6/255	Steady, consistent player.
7. George Rooks, Syracuse	6-4/274	Has good potential as pass rusher.
8. James Patton, Texas	6-3/272	Doesn't stop until the whistle blows.
9. Robert Stewart, Alabama	6-0/280	Former FB now a defensive terror.
10. Mike Evans, Michigan	6-3/250	Unspectacular, but solid overall.

LINEBACKERS

INSIDE

Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Comment
1. Quentin Coryatt, Texas A&M	6-4/243	Primed for a big senior season.
2. Dwight Hollier, North Carolina	6-3/239	As productive as Lawrence Taylor.
3. Robert Jones, East Carolina	6-3/236	Always seems to be around ball.
4. Joe Bowden, Oklahoma	6-1/230	Leads a strong Sooner defense.
5. Darrel Crawford, Auburn	6-2/226	Hard hitter in a small package.
6. Anthony Williams, Texas A&M	6-2/240	Could move up with big senior year.
7. John Clark, Akron	6-3/240	Talented; has off-field problems.
8. Chris Wilson, Oklahoma	6-3/230	Capable of playing any LB position.
9. John Sullins, Alabama	6-1/225	Size is his only drawback.
10. Santo Stephens, Temple	6-4/220	One of the East's best defenders.

OUTSIDE

Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Comment
1. Marco Coleman, Georgia Tech	6-4/250	A real force on the corner.
2. Devon McDonald, Notre Dame	6-3/237	One of the Irish's unsung heroes.
3. Levon Kirkland, Clemson	6-2/230	Plays with reckless abandon.
4. Elnardo Webster, Rutgers	6-2/246	A great talent on a mediocre team.
5. Ricardo McDonald, Pittsburgh	6-2/230	As consistent as they come.
6. Darryl Hardy, Tennessee	6-3/220	Sideline-to-sideline defender.
7. Eric Johnson, Stephen F. Austin	6-3/248	Has run a 4.67 40-yard dash.
8. Tracy Scroggins, Tulsa	6-4/252	Has the physical tools pros covet.
9. Howard Dinkins, Florida State	6-2/220	Productive and very intense.
10. Mark Thomas, N.C. State	6-5/252	Excellent at rushing the passer.

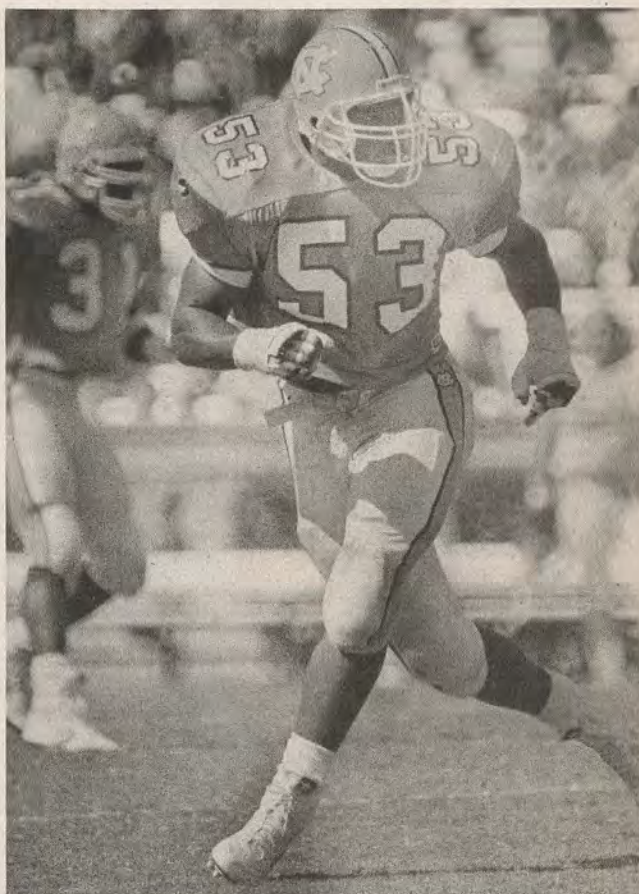
SPECIALISTS

PLACE-KICKERS

Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Comment
1. Jason Hanson, Washington St.	6-1/168	He can do it all.
2. Carlos Huerta, Miami (Fla.)	5-9/186	Rarely misses inside 45 yards.
3. Roman Anderson, Houston	5-10/180	Key weapon on high-scoring team.
4. Arden Czyzewski, Florida	6-0/212	Has a pro leg.
5. Klaus Wilmsmeyer, Louisville	6-2/202	This Cardinal commits few sins.

PUNTERS

Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Comment
1. Scott McAlister, North Carolina	6-3/217	Good distance and hang time.
2. Scott Bryant, Southern Miss	6-2/210	Tutored by ex-Pro Bowler Ray Guy.
3. Josh Butland, Michigan State	6-5/246	A big man with a big foot.
4. Ed Garno, Virginia	6-0/187	Can put the ball where he wants it.
5. Mike Riley, Mississippi State	6-1/217	Kicks the Bulldogs out of trouble.



Keeping good company: Linebacker Dwight Hollier is as productive as former North Carolina product Lawrence Taylor.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

CORNERBACKS

Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Comment
1. Troy Vincent, Wisconsin	6-0/190	Best in man-to-man coverage.
2. Kevin Smith, Texas A&M	6-0/175	Neutralizes top pass catchers.
3. Willie Clay, Georgia Tech	5-11/183	Has a great feel for the position.
4. Ric Crowder, Stephen F. Austin	6-0/192	Great athlete will be drafted early.
5. Corey Barlow, Auburn	5-10/186	Plays his best against the best.
6. Michael James, Arkansas	6-1/183	A standout defender in the SWC.
7. Mike Clark, Oklahoma State	5-11/198	The toughest player at his position.
8. Jason Belser, Oklahoma	5-10/180	Can cover a mosquito one-on-one.
9. David Wilson, California	6-1/195	Deserves more national acclaim.
10. Tyrone Legette, Nebraska	5-9/180	Great speed and athletic ability.

SAFETIES

Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Comment
1. Ken Swilling, Georgia Tech	6-3/236	Could be this year's Eric Turner.
2. Matt Darby, UCLA	6-2/205	His computer numbers are terrific.
3. Dale Carter, Tennessee	6-2/182	Coming off big junior season.
4. Terry Ray, Oklahoma	6-2/192	Aggressive ball hawk.
5. Marlon Primous, Illinois	6-3/222	A four-year Illini starter.
6. Damien Russell, Virginia Tech	6-2/204	Sets the tempo for Hokie defense.
7. Marquez Pope, Fresno State	5-11/190	Small, but tough and durable.
8. Sean Lumpkin, Minnesota	6-1/213	Overshadowed in the Big Ten.
9. Greg Thomas, Colorado	6-3/220	Similar to ex-teammate Tim James.
10. Gary Dandridge, Appal. State	6-2/220	Must rebound from '90 suspension.

1991 SCHEDULE

PRESEASON

(All times local.
except London, Tokyo and Berlin are Eastern)

WEEK 1

FRIDAY, JULY 26

Chicago at Miami.....8:00

SATURDAY, JULY 27

Denver vs. Detroit at Canton, O.*.....12:30

San Francisco at L.A. Raiders.....1:00

*Hall of Fame Game.

SUNDAY, JULY 28

Buffalo vs. Philadelphia at London.....1:00

WEEK 2

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2

Cincinnati at Detroit.....7:30

Indianapolis at Denver.....7:00

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3

Chicago vs. San Francisco at Berlin.....1:00

New England at Green Bay.....6:00

Minnesota at New Orleans.....7:00

L.A. Rams vs. Atlanta at Jacksonville, Fla.....8:00

Philadelphia at N.Y. Jets.....8:00

Dallas at Kansas City.....8:00

Houston at San Diego.....1:00

L.A. Raiders vs. Miami at Tokyo.....10:00

Phoenix at Seattle.....7:30

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4

Washington at Pittsburgh.....8:00

MONDAY, AUGUST 5

Buffalo at N.Y. Giants.....8:00

Tampa Bay at Cleveland.....8:30

WEEK 3

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7

Denver at San Francisco.....6:00

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9

Atlanta at Houston.....7:00

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10

Detroit at Buffalo.....6:30

Miami at Tampa Bay.....7:00

Philadelphia at Cincinnati.....7:30

Washington at New England.....7:30

Seattle at Indianapolis.....6:30

Kansas City vs. N.Y. Jets at St. Louis.....7:00

Green Bay at New Orleans.....7:00

N.Y. Giants at Cleveland.....9:00

Pittsburgh at Minnesota.....8:00

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11

Phoenix at Chicago.....7:00

MONDAY, AUGUST 12

L.A. Raiders at Dallas.....7:00

San Diego at L.A. Rams.....7:00

WEEK 4

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16

Cleveland at Washington.....8:00

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17

Buffalo vs. Green Bay at Madison, Wis.....12:00

Chicago at L.A. Raiders.....1:00

Tampa Bay at Atlanta.....7:00

Pittsburgh at Philadelphia.....7:30

N.Y. Jets at N.Y. Giants.....8:00

Detroit at Kansas City.....7:00

Minnesota at Cincinnati.....8:30

New Orleans at Indianapolis.....7:30

New England at Phoenix.....7:30

Seattle at L.A. Rams.....7:00

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

Dallas at Houston.....7:00

MONDAY, AUGUST 19

Miami at Denver.....6:00

San Diego at San Francisco.....6:00

WEEK 5

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22

L.A. Rams vs. Houston at Memphis.....6:00

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

Pittsburgh at Detroit.....7:30

Indianapolis at Philadelphia.....7:30

San Francisco at Seattle.....5:00

Kansas City at Tampa Bay.....8:00

New Orleans at Miami.....8:00

Cleveland at Minnesota.....7:00

Atlanta at Dallas.....7:00

Denver at Phoenix.....7:30

L.A. Raiders at San Diego.....7:00

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

N.Y. Giants at New England.....4:00

Cincinnati at Green Bay.....6:00

N.Y. Jets vs. Washington at Columbia, S.C.....7:00

Buffalo at Chicago.....8:00

REGULAR SEASON

(All times local)

WEEK 1

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Philadelphia at Green Bay.....12:00

Miami at Buffalo.....4:00

San Diego at Pittsburgh.....4:00

Tampa Bay at N.Y. Jets.....1:00

Cincinnati at Denver.....2:00

Phoenix at L.A. Rams.....1:00

Seattle at New Orleans.....12:00

Detroit at Washington.....8:00

Dallas at Cleveland.....1:00

Minnesota at Chicago.....3:00

New England at Indianapolis.....3:00

Atlanta at Kansas City.....12:00

L.A. Raiders at Houston.....3:00

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

San Francisco at N.Y. Giants.....9:00

WEEK 2

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Chicago at Tampa Bay.....1:00

Green Bay at Detroit.....1:00

Denver at L.A. Raiders.....1:00

San Diego at San Francisco.....1:00

L.A. Rams at N.Y. Giants.....1:00

Houston at Cincinnati.....8:00

Minnesota at Atlanta.....1:00

Cleveland at New England.....1:00

Indianapolis at Miami.....1:00

Pittsburgh at Buffalo.....1:00

Phoenix at Philadelphia.....1:00

New Orleans at Kansas City.....12:00

N.Y. Jets at Seattle.....1:00

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Washington at Dallas.....8:00

WEEK 3

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

N.Y. Giants at Chicago.....12:00

Phoenix at Washington.....1:00

Atlanta at San Diego.....1:00

Seattle at Denver.....2:00

New England at Pittsburgh.....1:00

Tampa Bay at Green Bay.....12:00

Cincinnati at Cleveland.....1:00

Buffalo at N.Y. Jets.....4:00

Indianapolis at L.A. Raiders.....1:00

Miami at Detroit.....1:00

L.A. Rams at New Orleans.....7:00

Philadelphia at Dallas.....12:00

San Francisco at Minnesota.....12:00

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Kansas City at Houston.....8:00

WEEK 4

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Dallas at Phoenix.....5:00

San Diego at Denver.....2:00

Detroit at Indianapolis.....12:00

Washington at Cincinnati.....1:00

L.A. Rams at San Francisco.....1:00

Green Bay at Miami.....1:00

Buffalo at Tampa Bay.....4:00

Houston at New England.....1:00

Cleveland at N.Y. Giants.....1:00

Seattle at Kansas City.....3:00

Pittsburgh at Philadelphia.....1:00

L.A. Raiders at Atlanta.....1:00

Minnesota at New Orleans.....12:00

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

N.Y. Jets at Chicago.....8:00

WEEK 5

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Miami at N.Y. Jets.....4:00

Green Bay at L.A. Rams.....1:00

Kansas City at San Diego.....1:00

Tampa Bay at Detroit.....1:00

Chicago at Buffalo.....1:00

San Francisco at L.A. Raiders.....1:00

Denver at Minnesota.....7:00

New Orleans at Atlanta.....1:00

Indianapolis at Seattle.....1:00

N.Y. Giants at Dallas.....12:00

New England at Phoenix.....1:00

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Philadelphia at Washington.....9:00

Open date: Cincinnati, Cleveland, Houston, Pittsburgh.

WEEK 6

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

Miami at New England.....1:00

Dallas vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee.....12:00

Seattle at Cincinnati.....1:00

San Diego at L.A. Raiders.....1:00

Denver at Houston.....12:00

N.Y. Jets at Cleveland.....1:00

Philadelphia at Tampa Bay.....1:00

Pittsburgh at Indianapolis.....7:00

Phoenix at N.Y. Giants.....4:00

Washington at Chicago.....12:00

Minnesota at Detroit.....1:00

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7

Buffalo at Kansas City.....8:00

Open date: Atlanta, L.A. Rams, New Orleans, San Francisco.

WEEK 7

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13

Indianapolis at Buffalo.....1:00

San Diego at L.A. Rams.....1:00

San Francisco at Atlanta.....1:00

Houston at N.Y. Jets.....4:00

L.A. Raiders at Seattle.....4:30

Cincinnati at Dallas.....12:00

Phoenix at Minnesota.....12:00

Cleveland at Washington.....1:00

New Orleans at Philadelphia.....1:00

Miami at Kansas City.....3:00

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14

N.Y. Giants at Pittsburgh.....9:00

Open date: Chicago, Denver, Detroit, Green Bay, New England, Tampa Bay.

WEEK 8

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17

Chicago at Green Bay.....6:30

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

Cleveland at San Diego.....1:00

Atlanta at Phoenix.....1:00

Houston at Miami.....1:00

Detroit at San Francisco.....1:00

Tampa Bay at New Orleans.....12:00

Seattle at Pittsburgh.....1:00

L.A. Rams at L.A. Raiders.....1:00

Kansas City at Denver.....2:00

Minnesota at New England.....1:00

N.Y. Jets at Indianapolis.....12:00

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21

Cincinnati at Buffalo.....9:00

Open date: Dallas, N.Y. Giants, Philadelphia, Washington.

WEEK 9

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

Pittsburgh at Cleveland.....1:00

Cincinnati at Houston.....12:00

Dallas at Detroit.....4:00

Denver at New England.....1:00

Minnesota at Phoenix.....2:00

San Diego at Seattle.....1:00

L.A. Rams at Atlanta.....1:00

Green Bay at Tampa Bay.....1:00

Chicago at New Orleans.....12:00

Washington at N.Y. Giants.....8:00

San Francisco at Philadelphia.....1:00

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

L.A. Raiders at Kansas City.....8:00

Open date: Buffalo, Indianapolis, Miami, N.Y. Jets.

WEEK 10

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Pittsburgh at Denver.....6:00

Houston at Washington.....1:00

New Orleans at L.A. Rams.....1:00

Miami at Indianapolis.....4:00

Green Bay at N.Y. Jets.....1:00

New England at Buffalo.....1:00

Detroit at Chicago	12:00
Cleveland at Cincinnati	1:00
Tampa Bay at Minnesota	12:00
Phoenix at Dallas	12:00
Atlanta at San Francisco	1:00

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4

N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia	9:00
Open date: Kansas City, L.A. Raiders, San Diego, Seattle.	

WEEK 11

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

New England at Miami	8:00
Detroit at Tampa Bay	1:00
Buffalo vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee	12:00
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati	1:00
Indianapolis at N.Y. Jets	1:00
Atlanta at Washington	1:00
Seattle at San Diego	1:00
San Francisco at New Orleans	12:00
N.Y. Giants at Phoenix	2:00
Kansas City at L.A. Rams	1:00
L.A. Raiders at Denver	2:00
Philadelphia at Cleveland	1:00
Dallas at Houston	12:00

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Chicago at Minnesota	8:00
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WEEK 12

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Chicago at Indianapolis	1:00
Washington at Pittsburgh	1:00
Phoenix at San Francisco	1:00
New Orleans at San Diego	1:00
Minnesota at Green Bay	12:00
Seattle at L.A. Raiders	1:00
Dallas at N.Y. Giants	4:00
Cincinnati at Philadelphia	1:00
Cleveland at Houston	7:00
Denver at Kansas City	12:00
Tampa Bay at Atlanta	1:00
N.Y. Jets at New England	1:00
L.A. Rams at Detroit	4:00

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Buffalo at Miami	9:00
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WEEK 13

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Miami at Chicago	12:00
Detroit at Minnesota	12:00
Philadelphia at Phoenix	2:00
Houston at Pittsburgh	1:00
Indianapolis vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee	12:00
Dallas at Washington	1:00
Denver at Seattle	1:00
Atlanta at New Orleans	7:00
L.A. Raiders at Cincinnati	1:00
N.Y. Giants at Tampa Bay	1:00
San Diego at N.Y. Jets	4:00
Kansas City at Cleveland	1:00
Buffalo at New England	1:00

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25

San Francisco at L.A. Rams	6:00
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WEEK 14

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Pittsburgh at Dallas	3:00
Chicago at Detroit	12:30

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

Kansas City at Seattle	1:00
New England at Denver	2:00
N.Y. Jets at Buffalo	1:00
N.Y. Giants at Cincinnati	4:00
New Orleans at San Francisco	1:00
L.A. Raiders at San Diego	5:00
Cleveland at Indianapolis	1:00
Tampa Bay at Miami	1:00
Green Bay at Atlanta	1:00
Washington at L.A. Rams	1:00

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

Philadelphia at Houston	8:00
Open date: Minnesota, Phoenix.	

WEEK 15

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

Indianapolis at New England	1:00
Pittsburgh at Houston	12:00
San Diego at Kansas City	12:00
Denver at Cleveland	1:00
Buffalo at L.A. Raiders	1:00
Atlanta at L.A. Rams	1:00
Washington at Phoenix	2:00
Minnesota at Tampa Bay	8:00
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants	1:00
Green Bay at Chicago	12:00
New Orleans at Dallas	12:00

San Francisco at Seattle	1:00
N.Y. Jets at Detroit	4:00

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

Cincinnati at Miami	9:00
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WEEK 16

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

Kansas City at San Francisco	1:00
Tampa Bay at Chicago	11:30

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

Phoenix at Denver	2:00
New England at N.Y. Jets	1:00
Dallas at Philadelphia	1:00
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh	1:00
Houston at Cleveland	1:00
L.A. Rams at Minnesota	12:00
Detroit at Green Bay	12:00
N.Y. Giants at Washington	4:00
Seattle at Atlanta	1:00
Buffalo at Indianapolis	8:00
Miami at San Diego	1:00

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16	
L.A. Raiders at New Orleans	8:00

WEEK 17

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

Green Bay at Minnesota	3:00
Houston at N.Y. Giants	12:30

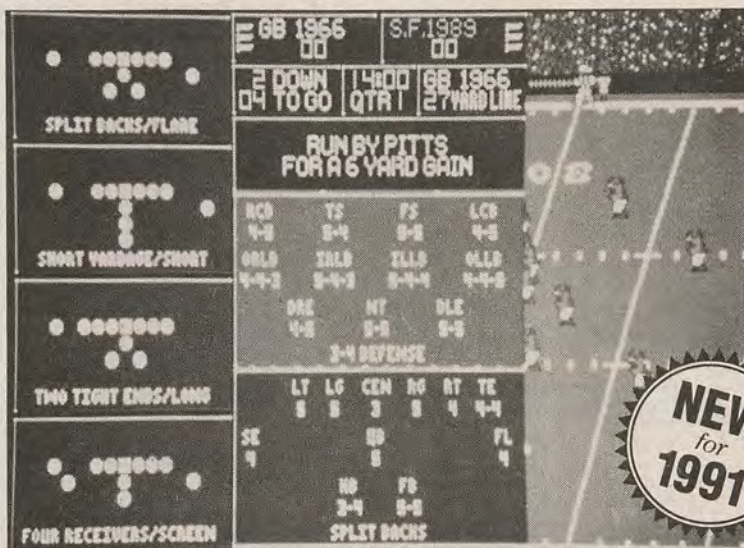
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

Washington at Philadelphia	4:00
Kansas City at L.A. Raiders	1:00
Atlanta at Dallas	12:00
Detroit at Buffalo	1:00
L.A. Rams at Seattle	5:00
New Orleans at Phoenix	2:00
Denver at San Diego	1:00
Indianapolis at Tampa Bay	1:00
Cleveland at Pittsburgh	1:00
New England at Cincinnati	1:00
N.Y. Jets at Miami	1:00

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

Chicago at San Francisco	6:00
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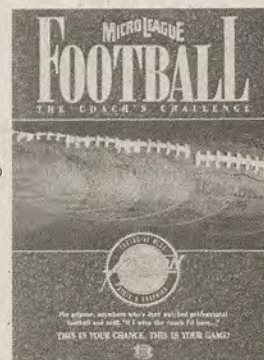
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1991 NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE DRAFT

FIRST ROUND

1. Cowboys (from Patriots): Russell Maryland, DL, Miami (Fla.); 2. Browns: Eric Turner, S, UCLA; 3. Falcons: Bruce Pickens, CB, Nebraska; 4. Broncos: Mike Croel, LB, Nebraska; 5. Rams: Todd Lyght, CB, Notre Dame; 6. Cardinals: Eric Swann, DL, None; 7. Buccaneers: Charles McRae, OT, Tennessee; 8. Eagles (from Packers): Antone Davis, OT, Tennessee; 9. Chargers: Stanley Richard, CB, Texas; 10. Lions: Herman Moore, WR, Virginia; 11. Patriots (from Vikings through Cowboys): Pat Harlow, OT, Southern California; 12. Cowboys: Alvin Harper, WR, Tennessee; 13. Falcons (from Colts): Mike Pritchard, WR, Colorado; 14. Patriots (from Saints through Cowboys): Leonard Russell, RB, Arizona State; 15. Steelers: Huey Richardson, LB, Florida; 16. Seahawks: Dan McGwire, QB, San Diego State; 17. Redskins (from Oilers through Patriots and Cowboys): Bobby Wilson, DT, Michigan State; 18. Bengals: Alfred Williams, LB, Colorado; 19. Packers (from Eagles): Vincent Clark, DB, Ohio State; 20. Cowboys (from Redskins): Kelvin Pritchett, DT, Mississippi; 21. Chiefs: Harvey Williams, RB, Louisiana State; 22. Bears: Stan Thomas, OT, Texas; 23. Dolphins: Randal Hill, WR, Miami (Fla.); 24. Raiders: Todd Marinovich, QB, Southern California; 25. 49ers: Ted Washington, DL, Louisville; 26. Bills: Henry Jones, S, Illinois; 27. Giants: Jarrod Bunch, FB, Michigan.

NOTE: The Jets did not have a first-round pick because they selected Rob Moore in the 1990 supplemental draft.

SECOND ROUND

1. Oilers (from Patriots): Mike Dumas, DB, Indiana; 2. Browns: Ed King, G, Auburn; 3. Broncos: Reggie Johnson, TE, Florida State; 4. Rams: Roman Phifer, LB, UCLA; 5. Cardinals: Mike Jones, DE, North Carolina State; 6. Falcons: Brett Favre, QB, Southern Mississippi; 7. Jets: Browning Nagle, QB, Louisville; 8. Packers: Esera Tualo, DT, Oregon State; 9. Chargers: George Thornton, DT, Alabama; 10. Cowboys (from Lions): Dixon Edwards, LB, Michigan State; 11. Oilers (from Vikings through Cowboys): Darryl Lewis, DB, Arizona; 12. Chargers (from Buccaneers): Eric Beniemy, RB, Colorado; 13. Colts: Shane Curry, DE, Miami (Fla.); 14. Patriots (from Cowboys): Jerome Henderson, DB, Clemson; 15. Saints: Wesley Carroll, WR, Miami (Fla.); 16. Raiders (from Seahawks): Nick Bell, RB, Iowa; 17. Oilers: John Flannery, C, Syracuse; 18. 49ers (from Bengals): Ricky Watters, RB, Notre Dame; 19. Steelers: Eric Graham, WR, Ohio State; 20. Chargers (from Redskins): Eric Moten, G, Michigan State; 21. Eagles: Jesse Campbell, DB, North Carolina State; 22. Bears: Chris Zorich, DT, Notre Dame; 23. Chiefs: Joe Valerio, T, Pennsylvania; 24. Seahawks (from Raiders): Doug Thomas, WR, Clemson; 25. Bengals (from Dolphins through 49ers): Lamar Rogers, DT, Auburn; 26. 49ers: John Johnson, LB, Clemson; 27. Bills: Phil Hansen, DE, North Dakota State; 28. Giants: Kanavis McGhee, LB, Colorado.

THIRD ROUND

1. Patriots: Calvin Stephens, G, South Carolina; 2. Browns: James Jones, NT, Northern Iowa; 3. Lions (from Rams): Reggie Barrett, WR, Texas-EI Paso; 4. Cardinals: Aeneas Williams, DB, Southern (La.); 5. Dolphins (from Falcons): Aaron Craver, RB, Fresno State; 6. Broncos: Keith Traylor, LB, Central State (Okla.); 7. Jets (from Packers): Morris Lewis, LB, Georgia; 8. Cowboys (from Chargers): Godfrey Myles, LB, Florida; 9. Cowboys (from Lions): James Richards, G, California; 10. Vikings: Carlos Jenkins, LB, Michigan State; 11. Buccaneers: Lawrence Dawsey, WR, Florida State; 12. Packers (from Jets): Don Davey, DE, Wisconsin; 13. Vikings (from Cowboys): Jake Reed, WR, Grambling State; 14. Colts: Dave McCoughan, DB, Colorado; 15. Cowboys (from Saints): Erik Williams, T, Central State (O.); 16. Oilers: Steve Jackson, DB, Purdue; 17. Bengals: Bob Dahl, DT, Notre Dame; 18. Steelers: Ernie Mills, WR, Florida; 19. Seahawks: David Daniels, WR, Penn State; 20. Eagles: Rob Selby, T, Auburn; 21. Redskins: Ricky Ervins, RB, Southern California; 22. Chiefs: Tim Barnett, WR, Jackson State; 23. Bears: Chris Gadocki, P-K, Clemson; 24. Oilers (from Dolphins): Kevin Donnalley, T, North Carolina; 25. Buccaneers (from Raiders): Robert Wilson, RB, Texas A&M; 26. Packers (from 49ers): Chuck Webb, RB, Tennessee; 27. Bills: Darryl Wren, DB, Pittsburg (Kan.) State; 28. Giants: Ed McCaffrey, WR, Stanford.

FOURTH ROUND

1. Patriots: Scott Zolak, QB, Maryland; 2. Browns: Pio Sagapolutele, DT, San Diego State; 3. Cardinals: Dexter Davis, DB, Clemson; 4. Falcons: Moe Gardner, NT, Illinois; 5. Steelers (from Broncos through Patriots): Sammy Walker, DB, Texas Tech; 6. Broncos (from Rams): Derek Russell, WR, Arkansas; 7. Chargers: Yancey Thigpen, WR, Winston-Salem (N.C.) State; 8. Lions: Kevin Scott, DB, Stanford; 9. Vikings: Randy Baldwin, RB, Mississippi; 10. Buccaneers: Tony Covington, DB, Virginia; 11. Jets: Mark Gunn, DT, Pittsburgh; 12. 49ers (from Packers): Mitch Donahue, LB, Wyoming; 13. Colts: Mark Vander Poel, T, Colorado; 14. Cowboys: Curvin Richards, RB, Pittsburgh; 15. Seahawks (from Saints through Raiders): John Kasay, K, Georgia; 16. Bengals: Donald Hollas, QB, Rice; 17. Raiders (from Steelers through Patriots): Raghib Ismail, WR, Notre Dame; 18. Oilers (from Seahawks through Patriots): David Rocker, DT, Auburn; 19. Oilers: Marcus Robertson, DB, Iowa State; 20. Steelers (from Redskins): Adrian Cooper, TE, Oklahoma; 21. Eagles: William Thomas, LB, Texas A&M; 22. Bears: Joe Johnson, DB, North Carolina State; 23. Cowboys (from Chiefs): Bill Musgrave, QB, Oregon; 24. Rams (from Raiders): Robert Bailey, DB, Miami (Fla.); 25. Cowboys (from Dolphins through Redskins and

Lions): Tony Hill, DE, UT-Chattanooga; 26. Bengals (from 49ers): Rob Carpenter, WR, Syracuse; 27. Cowboys (from Bills through Patriots): Kevin Harris, DE, Texas Southern; 28. Giants: Clarence Jones, T, Maryland.

FIFTH ROUND

1. Patriots: Brian Vaughn, RB, Michigan; 2. Dolphins (from Browns): Jon Cox, LB, Western Illinois; 3. Falcons: James Goode, LB, Oklahoma; 4. Broncos: Greg Lewis, RB, Washington; 5. Rams: Robert Young, DL, Mississippi State; 6. Cardinals: Vance Hammond, DT, Clemson; 7. Lions: Scott Conover, G, Purdue; 8. Vikings: Chris Thome, C, Minnesota; 9. Buccaneers: Terry Bagsby, LB, East Texas State; 10. Dolphins (from Jets through Packers): Eugene Williams, G, Iowa State; 11. 49ers (from Packers): Merton Hanks, DB, Iowa; 12. Chargers: Duane Young, TE, Michigan State; 13. Patriots (from Cowboys through Raiders): Ben Coates, TE, Livingstone (N.C.); 14. Colts: Kerry Cash, TE, Texas; 15. Saints: Reggie Jones, DB, Memphis State; 16. Chargers (from Steelers through Patriots): Floyd Fields, DB, Arizona State; 17. Seahawks: Harlan Davis, DB, Tennessee; 18. Oilers: Gary Wellman, WR, Southern California; 19. Bengals: Mike Arthur, C, Texas A&M; 20. Eagles: Craig Erickson, QB, Miami (Fla.); 21. Cowboys (from Redskins): Darrick Brownlow, LB, Illinois; 22. Chiefs: Charles Minicy, DB, Washington; 23. Bears: Anthony Morgan, WR, Tennessee; 24. Packers (from Dolphins): Jeff Fite, P, Memphis State; 25. Buccaneers (from Raiders): Tim Ryan, G, Notre Dame; 26. 49ers: Harry Boatwain, T, New Haven (Conn.); 27. Bills: Shawn Wilbourn, DB, Long Beach State; 28. Giants: Tony Moss, LB, Florida State.

SIXTH ROUND

1. Patriots: Dave Key, DB, Michigan; 2. Browns: Michael Jackson, WR, Southern Mississippi; 3. Broncos: Nick Subis, T, San Diego State; 4. Rams: Neal Fort, T, Brigham Young; 5. Cardinals: Eduardo Vega, T, Memphis State; 6. Falcons: Eric Pegram, RB, North Texas; 7. Raiders (from Vikings): Nolan Harrison, DT, Indiana; 8. Buccaneers: Rhett Hall, DT, California; 9. Jets: Blaise Bryant, RB, Iowa State; 10. Packers: Walter Dean, RB, Grambling State; 11. Chargers: Jimmy Laister, T, Oregon Tech; 12. Lions: Richie Andrews, K, Florida State; 13. Colts: Mel Agee, DT, Illinois; 14. Cowboys: Mike Sullivan, G, Miami (Fla.); 15. Saints: Fred McAfee, RB, Mississippi College; 16. Seahawks: Mike Sinclair, DE, Eastern New Mexico; 17. Eagles (from Oilers): Andrew Harmon, DB, Kent; 18. Bengals: Richard Fain, DB, Florida; 19. Steelers: Leroy Thompson, RB, Penn State; 20. Redskins: Dennis Ransom, TE, Texas A&M; 21. Jets (from Eagles): Mike Riley, DB, Tulane; 22. Bears: Darren Lewis, RB, Texas A&M; 23. Chiefs: Darrell Malone, DB, Jacksonville State; 24. Vikings (from Raiders): Todd Scott, DB, Southwestern Louisiana; 25. Packers (from Dolphins): Joe Garten, C, Colorado; 26. 49ers: Scott Bowles, T, North Texas; 27. Bills: Millard Hamilton, WR, Clark (Ga.); 28. Giants: Corey Miller, LB, South Carolina.

SEVENTH ROUND

1. Patriots: Blake Miller, C, Louisiana State; 2. Packers (from Browns): Frank Blevins, LB, Oklahoma; 3. Rams: Tyrone Shelton, RB, William & Mary; 4. Cardinals: Ivory Lee Brown, RB, Arkansas-Pine Bluff; 5. Falcons: Brian Mitchell, DB, Brigham Young; 6. Cowboys (from Broncos): Leon Lett, DT, Emporia (Kan.) State; 7. Buccaneers: Calvin Tiggle, LB, Georgia Tech; 8. Jets: Doug Parrish, DB, San Francisco State; 9. Packers: Reggie Burnette, LB, Houston; 10. Chargers: David Jones, WR, Delaware State; 11. Lions: Franklin Thomas, TE, Grambling State; 12. Vikings: Scott Reagan, DT, Humboldt State (Calif.); 13. Vikings (from Cowboys through Raiders): Tripp Welborne, DB, Michigan; 14. Colts: James Bradley, WR, Michigan State; 15. Saints: Hayward Haynes, G, Florida State; 16. Oilers: Kyle Freeman, LB, Angelo State (Tex.); 17. Bengals: Fernandous Vinson, DB, North Carolina State; 18. Steelers: Andre Jones, LB, Notre Dame; 19. Falcons (from Seahawks): Mark Tucker, C, Southern California; 20. Eagles: James Joseph, RB, Auburn; 21. Redskins: Keith Cash, WR, Texas; 22. Chiefs: Bernard Ellison, DB, Nevada; 23. Bears: Paul Justin, QB, Arizona State; 24. Dolphins: Chris Green, DB, Illinois; 25. Chargers (from Raiders): Terry Beauford, OL, Florida A&M; 26. 49ers: Sheldon Canley, RB, San Jose State; 27. Bills: Amir Rasul, RB, Florida A&M; 28. Giants: Simmie Carter, DB, Southern Mississippi.

EIGHTH ROUND

1. Patriots: Harry Colon, DB, Missouri; 2. Browns: Frank Conover, DT, Syracuse; 3. Cardinals: Greg Amisler, RB, Tennessee; 4. Falcons: Randy Austin, TE, UCLA; 5. Broncos: Kenny Walker, DE, Nebraska; 6. Rams: Pat Tyrance, LB, Nebraska; 7. Jets: Tim James, DB, Colorado; 8. Packers: Johnny Walker, WR, Texas; 9. Cardinals (from Chargers): Jerry Evans, TE, Toledo; 10. Lions: Cedric Jackson, RB, Texas Christian; 11. Vikings: Reggie Johnson, DE, Arizona; 12. Buccaneers: Marty Carter, DB, Middle Tennessee State; 13. Colts: Tim Bruton, TE, Missouri; 14. Cardinals (from Cowboys): Scott Evans, DT, Oklahoma; 15. Saints: Frank Wainright, TE, Northern Colorado; 16. Bengals: Mike Dingle, RB, South Carolina; 17. Steelers: Dean Dingman, G, Michigan; 18. Raiders (from Seahawks): Brian Jones, LB, Texas; 19. Oilers: Gary Brown, RB, Penn State; 20. Redskins: Jimmy Spencer, DB, Florida; 21. Eagles: Scott Kowalkowski, LB, Notre Dame; 22. Bears: Larry Horton, DB, Texas A&M; 23. Chiefs: Tom Dohring, T, Michigan; 24. Raiders: Todd Woulard, LB, Alabama

A&M; 25. Dolphins: Roland Smith, DB, Miami (Fla.); 26. 49ers: Tony Hargain, WR, Oregon; 27. Bills: Brad Lamb, WR, Anderson (Ind.); 28. Giants: Lamar McGriggs, DB, Western Illinois.

NINTH ROUND

1. Patriots: O'Neil Glenn, G, Maryland; 2. Browns: Raymond Irvin, DB, Central Florida; 3. Falcons: Ernie Logan, DE, East Carolina; 4. Broncos: Don Gibson, NT, Southern California; 5. Rams: Jeff Fields, DT, Arkansas State; 6. Packers: Dean Witkowski, LB, North Dakota; 7. Chargers: Andy Katoa, LB, Southern Oregon; 8. Lions: Darryl Milburn, DE, Grambling State; 9. Vikings: Gerald Hudson, RB, Oklahoma State; 10. Buccaneers: Treamele Taylor, WR, Nevada; 11. Jets: Paul Glonek, DT, Arizona; 12. Cowboys: Damon Mays, WR, Missouri; 13. Colts: Howard Griffith, RB, Illinois; 14. Saints: Anthony Wallace, RB, California; 15. Steelers: Bruce McGonnigal, TE, Virginia; 16. Browns (from Seahawks): Shawn Wiggins, WR, Wyoming; 17. Oilers: Shawn Jefferson, WR, Central Florida; 18. Bengals: Shane Garrett, WR, Texas A&M; 19. Eagles: Chuck Weatherspoon, RB, Houston; 20. Redskins: Charles Bell, DB, Baylor; 21. Chiefs: Robbie Keen, K, California; 22. Bears: Mike Stonebreaker, LB, Notre Dame; 23. Dolphins: Scott Miller, WR, UCLA; 24. Raiders: Tah-ahn Lewis, DB, Nebraska; 25. 49ers: Louis Riddick, DB, Pittsburg; 26. Bills: Mark Maddox, LB, Northern Michigan; 27. Giants: Jerry Bouldin, WR, Mississippi State.

NOTE: The Cardinals did not have a ninth-round pick because they selected Willie Williams in the 1990 supplemental draft.

TENTH ROUND

1. Patriots: Randy Bethel, TE, Miami (Fla.); 2. Browns: Brian Greenfield, P, Pittsburgh; 3. Broncos: Curtis Mayfield, WR, Oklahoma State; 4. Chargers (from Rams): Roland Poles, RB, Tennessee; 5. Cardinals: Herbie Anderson, DB, Texas A&M; 6. Falcons: Walter Sutton, WR, Southwest Minnesota State; 7. Chargers: Mike Heldt, C, Notre Dame; 8. Falcons (from Lions): Peter Lucas, DT, Wisconsin-Stevens Point; 9. Vikings: Brady Pierce, T, Wisconsin; 10. Buccaneers: Pat O'Hara, DB, Southern California; 11. Jets: Al Baker, RB, Kentucky; 12. Packers: Rapier Porter, TE, Arkansas-Pine Bluff; 13. Colts: Frank Gianetti, DE, Penn State; 14. Cowboys: Sean Love, G, Penn State; 15. Buccaneers (from Saints): Hyland Hickson, RB, Michigan State; 16. Seahawks: Erik Ringoel, LB, Hofstra; 17. Oilers: Curtis Moore, LB, Kansas; 18. Bengals: Jim Lavin, G, Georgia Tech; 19. Steelers: Ariel Solomon, T, Colorado; 20. Redskins: Chris Shale, P, Bowling Green State; 21. Eagles: Eric Harmon, G, Clemson; 22. Bears: Tom Backes, DE, Oklahoma; 23. Chiefs: Eric Ramsey, DB, Auburn; 24. Raiders: Andrew Glover, TE, Grambling State; 25. Dolphins: Michael Tittle, TE, Iowa; 26. 49ers: Byron Holdbrooks, NT, Alabama; 27. Bills: Tony DeLorenzo, G, New Mexico State; 28. Giants: Luis Cristobal, G, Miami (Fla.).

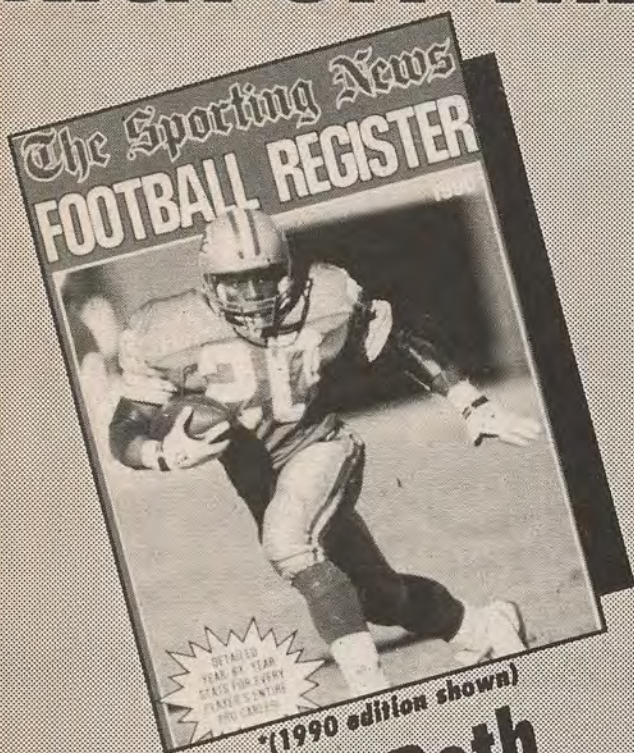
11TH ROUND

1. Patriots: Vince Moore, WR, Tennessee; 2. Browns: Todd Jones, G, Henderson State (Ark.); 3. Rams: Terry Crews, LB, Western Michigan; 4. Cardinals: Nathan LaDuke, DB, Arizona State; 5. Falcons: Joe Sims, NT, Nebraska; 6. Broncos: Shawn Moore, QB, Virginia; 7. Lions: Slip Watkins, WR, Louisiana State; 8. Vikings: Ivan Caesar, LB, Boston College; 9. Buccaneers: Mike Sunvold, DT, Minnesota; 10. Jets: Rocen Keeton, LB, UCLA; 11. Packers: J. Wierenga, DE, Central Michigan; 12. Chargers: Joaquin Weinberg, WR, Johnson C. Smith (N.C.); 13. Cowboys: Tony Boles, RB, Michigan; 14. Colts: Jerry Crafts, T, Louisville; 15. Saints: Scott Ross, LB, Southern California; 16. Oilers: James Smith, DB, Richmond; 17. Bengals: Chris Smith, TE, Brigham Young; 18. Steelers: Efrum Thomas, DB, Alabama; 19. Seahawks: Tony Stewart, RB, Iowa; 20. Eagles: Mike Flores, DE, Louisville; 21. Redskins: Dave Gullledge, DB, Jacksonville State; 22. Chiefs: Bobby Olive, WR, Ohio State; 23. Bears: Stacy Long, G, Clemson; 24. Dolphins: Ernie Rogers, G, California; 25. Patriots (from Raiders through Chargers): Paul Asbury, P, Southwest Texas State; 26. 49ers: Bobby Slaughter, WR, Louisiana Tech; 27. Bills: Dean Kirkland, G, Washington; 28. Giants: Ted Popson, TE, Portland State.

12TH ROUND

1. Patriots: Tim Edwards, DT, Delta State (Miss.); 2. Browns: Elijah Austin, NT, North Carolina State; 3. Cardinals: Jeff Briedwell, QB, UC Davis; 4. Falcons: Bobby Christian, RB, Northwestern; 5. Rams (from Broncos): Jeff Puhakua, T, Washington; 6. Rams: Ernie Thompson, RB, Indiana; 7. Vikings: Darren Hughes, WR, Carson-Newman (Tenn.); 8. Buccaneers: Al Chamblee, LB, Virginia Tech; 9. Jets: Mark Hayes, T, Arizona State; 10. Packers: Linzy Collins, WR, Missouri; 11. Chargers: Chris Samuels, RB, Texas; 12. Lions: Zeno Alexander, LB, Arizona; 13. Colts: Rob Luedeke, C, Penn State; 14. Cowboys: Larry Brown, DB, Texas Christian; 15. Saints: Mark Drabczak, T, Minnesota; 16. Bengals: Antoine Bennett, DB, Florida A&M; 17. Steelers: Jeff Brady, LB, Kentucky; 18. Seahawks: Ike Harris, G, South Carolina; 19. Oilers: Alex Johnson, WR, Miami (Fla.); 20. Redskins: Keenan McCardell, WR, UNLV; 21. Eagles: Darrell Beavers, LB, Morehead State; 22. Bears: John Cook, DT, Washington; 23. Chiefs: Ron Shipley, G, New Mexico; 24. Raiders: Dennis Johnson, WR, Winston-Salem (N.C.) State; 25. Dolphins: Joe Brunson, DT, UT-Chattanooga; 26. 49ers: Cliff Confer, DE, Michigan State; 27. Bills: Stephen Clark, TE, Texas; 28. Giants: Larry Wanke, QB, John Carroll (O.).

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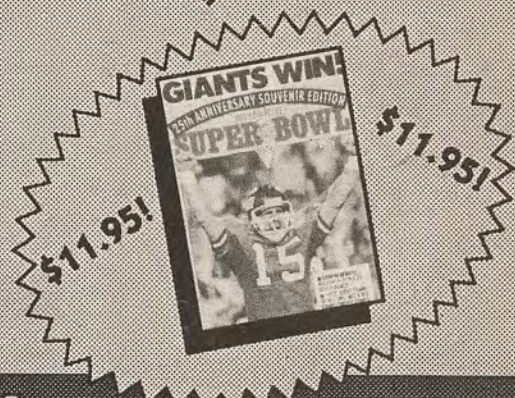


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1990 NFC STATISTICAL LEADERS

SCORING

KICKERS						
Player, Team	XP	Alt.	FG	FG	Tot.	Pts.
Lohmiller, Chip, Was.	41	41	30	40	131	
Butler, Kevin, Chicago	36	37	26	37	114	
Cofer, Mike, S.F.	39	39	24	36	111	
Ruzek, Roger, Phi.	45	48	21	29	108	
Davis, Greg, Atlanta	40	40	22	33	106	
Jacke, Chris, Green Bay	28	29	23	30	97	
Christie, Steve, T.B.	27	27	23	27	96	
Andersen, Morten, N.O.	29	29	21	27	92	
Lansford, Mike, Rams	42	43	15	24	87	
Del Greco, Al, Phoenix	31	31	17	27	82	
Bahr, Matt, N.Y. Giants	29	30	17	23	80	
Willis, Ken, Dallas	26	26	18	25	80	
Murray, Eddie, Detroit	34	34	13	19	73	
Revez, Fuad, S.D.	26	27	13	19	65	
Igwebuike, Donald, Min.	19	19	14	16	61	
Karlis, Rich, Detroit	12	12	4	7	24	
Allegre, Raul, N.Y. Giants	9	9	4	5	21	

NON-KICKERS

Player, Team	Total TD	Rush TD	Pass TD	Misc. TD	Tot. Pts.
Sanders, Barry, Det. (RB)	16	13	3	0	96
Gary, Cle., Rams (RB)	15	14	1	0	90
Anderson, Neal, Chi. (RB)	13	10	3	0	78
Rice, Jerry, S.F. (WR)	13	0	13	0	78
Anderson, O., NYG (RB)	11	11	0	0	66
Smith, Emmitt, Dal. (RB)	11	11	0	0	66
Rison, Andre, Atl. (WR)	10	0	10	0	60
Walker, H., Min. (RB)	9	5	4	0	54
Williams, C., Phi. (WR)	9	0	9	0	54
Barnett, Fred, Phi. (WR)	8	0	8	0	48
Carter, A., Min. (WR)	8	0	8	0	48
Clark, Gary, Was. (WR)	8	0	8	0	48
Clark, Robert, Det. (WR)	8	0	8	0	48
Byner, E., Was. (RB)	7	6	1	0	42
Jones, H., Min. (WR)	7	0	7	0	42
Mayes, Rueben, N.O. (RB)	7	7	0	0	42
Rathman, Tom, S.F. (FB)	7	7	0	0	42
Taylor, John, S.F. (WR)	7	0	7	0	42
Jackson, Keith, Phi. (TE)	6	0	6	0	36
Johnson, R., Det. (WR)	6	0	6	0	36
Muster, Brad, Chi. (FB)	6	6	0	0	36
Peete, Rodney, Det. (QB)	6	6	0	0	36
Riggs, Gerald, Was. (RB)	6	6	0	0	36
Sharpe, S., G.B. (WR)	6	0	6	0	36
Anderson, G., T.B. (RB)	5	3	2	0	30
Bavaro, Mark, NYG (TE)	5	0	5	0	30
Cunningham, Phi. (QB)	5	5	0	0	30
Hill, Bruce, T.B. (WR)	5	0	5	0	30
Ingram, Mark, NYG (WR)	5	0	5	0	30
Irvin, Michael, Dal. (WR)	5	0	5	0	30
Johnson, J., Phi. (RB)	5	5	0	0	30
Jones, Brent, S.F. (TE)	5	0	5	0	30
Martin, Eric, N.O. (WR)	5	0	5	0	30
McGee, B., Rams (FB)	5	1	4	0	30
Monk, Art, Was. (WR)	5	0	5	0	30
West, Ed, G.B. (TE)	5	0	5	0	30
Anderson, Rams (WR)	4	0	4	0	24
Baker, S., NYG (WR)	4	0	4	0	24
Broussard, S., Atl. (RB)	4	4	0	0	24
Carrier, Mark, T.B. (WR)	4	0	4	0	24
Delpino, R., Rams (FB)	4	0	4	0	24
Dixon, Floyd, Atl. (WR)	4	0	4	0	24
Ellard, Henry, Rams (WR)	4	0	4	0	24
Green, Roy, Phi. (WR)	4	0	4	0	24
Hampton, R., NYG (RB)	4	2	2	0	24
Harbaugh, Jim, Chi. (QB)	4	4	0	0	24
Heyward, C., N.O. (FB)	4	4	0	0	24
Johnson, Tracy, Atl. (FB)	4	3	1	0	24
Jones, Ernie, Phi. (WR)	4	0	4	0	24
Novacek, Jay, Dal. (TE)	4	0	4	0	24
Proehl, Ricky, Phi. (WR)	4	0	4	0	24
Sherman, H., Phi. (RB)	4	1	3	0	24
Thompson, A., Phi. (RB)	4	4	0	0	24
Toney, A., Phi. (RB)	4	1	3	0	24
Turner, Floyd, N.O. (WR)	4	0	4	0	24
Byars, Keith, Phi. (RB)	3	0	3	0	18
Carter, Cris, Min. (WR)	3	0	3	0	18
Davis, Wendell, Chi. (WR)	3	0	3	0	18
Greer, Terry, Det. (WR)	3	0	3	0	18
Haddix, Wayne, T.B. (CB)	3	0	0	3	18
Johnson, D., Rams (TE)	3	0	3	0	18
Jordan, Steve, Min. (TE)	3	0	3	0	18
Morris, Ron, Chi. (WR)	3	0	3	0	18
Query, Jeff, G.B. (WR)	3	0	2	1	18
Rosenbach, T., Phi. (QB)	3	3	0	0	18
Roziert, Mike, Atl. (RB)	3	3	0	0	18

Player, Team	Total TD	Rush TD	Pass TD	Misc. TD	Tot. Pts.
Sanders, Deion, Atl. (CB)	3	0	0	3	18
Sanders, R., Was. (WR)	3	0	3	0	18
Sydney, H., S.F. (FB)	3	2	1	0	18
Anderson, A., Min. (RB)	2	2	0	0	12
Brenner, Hoby, N.O. (TE)	2	0	2	0	12
Butler, Bobby, Atl. (CB)	2	0	0	2	12
Campbell, Jeff, Det. (WR)	2	0	2	0	12
Cobb, Reggie, T.B. (RB)	2	2	0	0	12
Collins, Shawn, Atl. (WR)	2	0	2	0	12
Fenerty, Gill, N.O. (RB)	2	2	0	0	12
Fenney, Rick, Min. (RB)	2	2	0	0	12
Flagler, T., Phi. (RB)	2	1	1	0	12
Gentry, Dennis, Chi. (WR)	2	0	2	0	12
Green, G., Rams (FB)	2	0	1	1	12
Haddix, M., G.B. (FB)	2	0	2	0	12
Hall, Ron, T.B. (TE)	2	0	2	0	12
Holohan, Pete, Rams (TE)	2	0	2	0	12
Hosstetter, Jeff, NYG (QB)	2	2	0	0	12
Humphries, S., Was. (QB)	2	2	0	0	12
Johnson, J., Was. (TE)	2	0	2	0	12
Johnston, D., Dal. (RB)	2	1	1	0	12
Kemp, Perry, G.B. (WR)	2	0	2	0	12
Meggett, Dave, NYG (RB)	2	0	1	1	12
Noga, Al, Min. (DE)	2	0	0	2	12
Perkins, Bruce, T.B. (RB)	2	0	2	0	12
Perriman, B., N.O. (WR)	2	0	2	0	12
Sherrard, Mike, S.F. (WR)	2	0	2	0	12
Smith, J.T., Phi. (WR)	2	0	2	0	12
Thompson, D., G.B. (FB)	2	1	0	1	12
Tomczak, Mike, Chi. (QB)	2	2	0	0	12
Turner, M., Phi. (DB)	2	0	0	2	12
Wilkins, Gary, Atl. (TE)	2	0	2	0	12

INTERCEPTIONS

Player, Team	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Carrier, Mark, Chicago	10	39	3.9	14	0
Haddix, Wayne, T.B.	7	231	33.0	t65	3
Browner, Joey, Min.	7	103	14.7	31	1
Waymer, Dave, S.F.	7	64	9.1	24	0
Mayhew, Martin, Was.	7	20	2.9	15	0
Walls, Everson, NYG	6	80	13.3	40	1
Stinson, Lemuel, Chi.	6	66	11.0	30	0
White, William, Detroit	5	120	24.0	48	1
Hopkins, Wes, Phi.	5	45	9.0	21	0
Hamilton, Harry, T.B.	5	39	7.8	27	0
Jackson, Greg, NYG	5	8	1.6	5	0
Robinson, Mark, T.B.	4	81	20.3	27	0
McDonald, Tim, Phi.	4	63	15.8	38	0
Humphery, B., Rams	4	52	13.0	t44	1
Newsome, V., Rams	4	47	11.8	22	0
Green, Darrell, Was.	4	20	5.0	t18	1
Sanders, Deion, Atl.	3	153	51.0	t82	2
Merriweather, M., Min.	3	108	36.0	73	0
Frizzell, William, Phi.	3	91	30.3	37	1
Bowles, Todd, Was.	3	74	24.7	43	0
Holt, Issiac, Dallas	3	72	24.0	t64	1
Reynolds, Ricky, T.B.	3	70	23.3	46	0
Taylor, Jay, Phoenix	3	50	16.7	34	0
Butler, LeRoy, G.B.	3	42	14.0	28	0
Holmes, Jerry, G.B.	3	39	13.0	24	0
Case, Scott, Atlanta	3	38	12.7	t36	1
Allen, Eric, Phi.	3	37	12.3	t35	1
Griffin, Don, S.F.	3	32	10.7	23	0
Everett, Eric, T.B.	3	28	9.3	23	0
Lott, Ronnie, S.F.	3	26	8.7	15	0
Washington, J., Dal.	3	24	8.0	13	0

PUNT RETURNS

Player, Team	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Bayler, Johnny, Chi.	36	13	399	11.1	195	1
Meggett, Dave, NYG	43	12	467	10.9	t68	1
Gray, Mel, Detroit	34	7	361	10.6	39	0
Query, Jeff, G.B.	32	7	308	9.6	25	0
Sanders, Deion, Atl.	29	13	250	8.6	t79	1
Sikahema, Vai, Phi.	36	6	306	8.5	20	0
Buck, Vince, N.O.	37	8	305	8.2	33	0
Taylor, John, S.F.	26	5	212	8.2	30	0
Drewrey, Willie, T.B.	23	15	184	8.0	16	0
Harris, Rod, Dal.-Phi.	28	8	214	7.6	30	0
Stanley, Walter, Was.	24	8	176	7.3	32	0
Lewis, Leo, Cle.-Min.	33	22	236	7.2	30	0
Shepard, Derrick, Dal.	20	1	121	6.1	13	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

Player, Team	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Meggett, Dave, NYG	21	492	23.4	58	0
Gray, Mel, Detroit	41	939	22.9	65	0
Wilson, Charles, G.B.	35	798	22.8	36	0
Green, Gaston, Rams	25	560	22.4	t99	1
Walker, H., Minn.	44	966	22.0	64	0
Sanders, Deion, Atl.	39	851	21.8	50	0
Dixon, James, Dallas	36	736	20.4	47	0
Fenerty, Gill, N.O.	28	572	20.4	58	0
Sikahema, Vai, Phi.	27	544	20.1	32	0
Delpino, Robert, Rams	120	389	19.5	38	0
Howard, Joe, Was.	22	427	19.4	35	0
Carter, Dexter, S.F.	41	783	19.1	35	0
Hampton, R., NYG	20	340	17.0	33	0
Bailey, Johnny, Chi.	23	363	15.8	30	0

PASSING

Player, Team	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	Avg.	Gain	TD	Long	Int.	Pct.	Sack	Yds.	Rating
Simms, Phil, N.Y. Giants	311	184	59.2	2284	7.34	15	4.8	180	4	1.3	20	104	92.7
Cunningham, Randall, Phi.	465	271	58.3	3466	7.45	30	6.5	195	13	2.8	49	431	91.6
Montana, Joe, San Francisco	520	321	61.7	3944	7.58	26	5.0	178	16	3.1	29	153	89.0
Harbaugh, Jim, Chicago	312	180	57.7	2178	6.98	10	3.2	180	6	1.9	31	206	81.9
Peete, Rodney, Detroit	271	142	52.4	1974	7.28	13	4.8	168	8	3.0	27	173	79.8
Everett, Jim, L.A. Rams	554	307	55.4	3989	7.20	23	4.2	155	17	3.1	30	198	79.3
Miller, Chris, Atlanta	388	222	57.2	2735	7.05	17	4.4	175	14	3.6	26	167	78.7
Rypien, Mark, Washington	304	166	54.6	2070	6.81	16	5.3	153	11	3.6	6	33	78.4
Testaverde, Vinny, T.B.	365	203	55.6	2818	7.72	17	4.7	189	18	4.9	38	330	75.6
Majkowski, Don, Green Bay	264	150	56.8	1925	7.29	10	3.8	176	12	4.5	32	178	73.5
Rosenbach, Timm, Phoenix	437	237	54.2	3098	7.09	16	3.7	168	17	3.9	43	285	72.8
Gannon, Rich, Minnesota	349	182	52.1	2278	6.53	16	4.6	178	16	4.6	34	188	68.9
Walsh, Steve, Dallas-N.O.	336	179	53.3	2010	5.98	12	3.6	58	13	3.9	10	76	67.2
Aikman, Troy, Dallas	399	226	56.6	2579	6.46	11	2.8	161	18	4.5	39	288	66.6

PUNTING

Player, Team	Net Punts	Yards	Long	Avg.	Total Punts	TB	Bk.	Opp. Ret.	Ret. Yds.	In 20	Net Avg.
Landeta, Sean, N.Y. Giants.....	75	3306	67	44.1	75	11	0	41	291	24	37.3
Saxon, Mike, Dallas.....	79	3413	62	43.2	79	8	0	43	438	20	35.6
Camarillo, Rich, Phoenix.....	67	2865	63	42.8	67	5	0	41	258	16	37.4
Barnhardt, Tommy, New Orleans.....	70	2990	65	42.7	71	6	1	43	302	20	36.2
Newsome, Harry, Minnesota.....	78	3299	61	42.3	79	8	1	44	513	19	33.2
Feagles, Jeff, Philadelphia.....	72	3026	60	42.0	74	3	2	37	338	20	35.5
Fulhage, Scott, Atlanta.....	70	2913	59	41.6	70	4	0	39	314	15	36.0
Arnold, Jim, Detroit.....	63	2560	59	40.6	63	5	0	29	233	10	35.3
Buford, Maury, Chicago.....	76	3073	59	40.4	78	7	2	39	322	22	33.5
Royals, Mark, Tampa Bay.....	72	2902	62	40.3	72	5	0	39	352	8	34.0
Mojsiejenko, Ralf, Washington.....	43	1687	53	39.2	44	0	1	25	182	17	34.2
English, Keith, L.A. Rams.....	68	2663	58	39.2	69	2	1	46	420	8	31.9
Bracken, Don, Green Bay.....	64	2431	59	38.0	65	2	1	34	266	17	32.7
Helton, Barry, San Francisco.....	69	2537	56	36.8	70	8	1	30	215	15	30.9

RUSHING

Player, Team	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Sanders, Barry, Det.	255	1304	5.1	145	13
Byner, Earnest, Was.	297	1219	4.1	22	6
Anderson, Neal, Chi.	260	1078	4.1	52	10
Cunningham, R., Phi.	118	942	8.0	152	5
Smith, Emmitt, Dallas	241	937	3.9	148	11
Johnson, Johnny, Phi.	234	926	4.0	41	5
Gary, Cleveland, Rams	204	808	4.0	48	14
Anderson, Ottis, NYG	225	784	3.5	28	11
Walker, Herschel, Min.	184	770	4.2	158	5
Rozier, Mike, Hou.-Atl.	163	717	4.4	67	3
Sherman, Heath, Phi.	164	685	4.2	36	1
Muster, Brad, Chicago	141	664	4.7	28	6
Anderson, Gary, T.B.	166	646	3.9	22	3
Heyward, Craig, N.O.	129	599	4.6	147	4
Mayes, Rueben, N.O.	138	510	3.7	18	7
Cobb, Reggie, T.B.	151	480	3.2	17	2
Riggs, Gerald, Was.	123	475	3.9	20	6
Rosenbach, T., Phi.	86	470	5.5	25	3
Carter, Dexter, S.F.	114	460	4.0	174	1
Hampton, R., NYG	109	455	4.2	41	2
Broussard, Steve, Atl.	126	454	3.6	150	4
Toney, Anthony, Phi.	132	452	3.4	20	1
Craig, Roger, S.F.	141	439	3.1	26	1
Thompson, A., Phi.	106	390	3.7	40	4
Fenney, Rick, Min.	87	376	4.3	27	2
Peete, Rodney, Detroit	47	363	7.7	37	6
Fenerty, Gill, N.O.	73	355	4.9	160	2
Harbaugh, Jim, Chi.	51	321	6.3	17	4
Rathman, Tom, S.F.	101	318	3.1	22	7
Haddix, Michael, G.B.	98	311	3.2	13	0
Hilliard, Dalton, N.O.	90	284	3.2	17	0
Testaverde, V., T.B.	38	280	7.4	148	1
Gannon, Rich, Min.	52	268	5.2	27	1
Thompson, D., G.B.	76	264	3.5	37	1
Green, Gaston, Rams	68	261	3.8	31	0
McGee, Buford, Rams	44	234	5.3	19	1
Tillman, Lewis, NYG	84	231	2.8	17	1
Agee, Tommie, Dallas	53	213	4.0	28	0
Sanders, Thomas, Phi.	56	208	3.7	39	1
Anderson, Alfred, Min.	59	207	3.5	14	2
Hostetler, Jeff, NYG	39	190	4.9	30	2
Majkowski, Don, G.B.	29	186	6.4	24	1
Jones, Keith, Atlanta	49	185	3.8	22	0
Woodside, Keith, G.B.	46	182	4.0	21	1

RECEIVING

Player, Team	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Rice, Jerry, S.F.	100	1502	15.0	164	13
Rison, Andre, Atlanta	82	1208	14.7	175	10
Byars, Keith, Phi.	81	819	10.1	54	3
Ellard, Henry, Rams	76	1294	17.0	150	4
Clark, Gary, Was.	75	1112	14.8	153	8
Carter, A., Min.	70	1008	14.4	156	8
Monk, Art, Was.	68	770	11.3	44	5
Sharpe, Sterling, G.B.	67	1105	16.5	176	6
Martin, Kelvin, Dallas	64	732	11.4	45	0
Johnson, Richard, Det.	64	727	11.4	144	6
Martin, Eric, N.O.	63	912	14.5	58	5
Novacek, Jay, Dallas	59	657	11.1	41	4
Proehl, Ricky, Phoenix	56	802	14.3	145	4
Jones, Brent, S.F.	56	747	13.3	167	5
Sanders, Ricky, Was.	56	727	13.0	38	3
Green, Roy, Phi.	53	797	15.0	54	4
Clark, Robert, Detroit	52	914	17.6	57	8
Anderson, W., Rams	51	1097	21.5	155	4
Jones, Hassan, Min.	51	810	15.9	175	7
Jackson, Keith, Phi.	50	670	13.4	137	6
Carrier, Mark, T.B.	49	813	16.6	168	4
Taylor, John, S.F.	49	748	15.3	178	7
Holohan, Pete, Rams	49	475	9.7	28	2
Rathman, Tom, S.F.	48	327	6.8	28	0
Muster, Brad, Chicago	47	452	9.6	48	0
McGee, Buford, Rams	47	388	8.3	25	4
Jordan, Steve, Min.	45	636	14.1	38	3
Kemp, Perry, G.B.	44	527	12.0	29	2
Jones, Ernie, Phoenix	43	724	16.8	168	4
Hill, Bruce, T.B.	42	641	15.3	148	5
Anderson, Neal, Chi.	42	484	11.5	150	3
Davis, Wendell, Chi.	39	572	14.7	51	3
Meggett, Dave, NYG	39	410	10.5	38	1
Cobb, Reggie, T.B.	39	299	7.7	17	0
Anderson, Gary, T.B.	38	464	12.2	74	2
Dixon, Floyd, Atlanta	38	399	10.5	34	4
Williams, Calvin, Phi.	37	602	16.3	145	9
Barnett, Fred, Phi.	36	721	20.0	195	8
Sanders, Barry, Det.	36	480	13.3	147	3
Perriman, Brett, N.O.	36	382	10.6	29	2
Walker, Herschel, Min.	35	315	9.0	32	4
Collins, Shawn, Atl.	34	503	14.8	61	2
Query, Jeff, G.B.	34	458	13.5	147	2
Bavaro, Mark, NYG	33	393	11.9	61	5

Player, Team	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Weathers, C., G.B.	33	390	11.8	29	1
Hampton, R., NYG	32	274	8.6	127	2
Hall, Ron, Tampa Bay	31	464	15.0	154	2
Haynes, Michael, Atl.	31	445	14.4	60	0
Morris, Ron, Chicago	31	437	14.1	167	3
Fontenot, H., G.B.	31	293	9.5	59	1
Byner, Earnest, Was.	31	279	9.0	19	1

SACKS

Player, Team	No.
Haley, Charles, San Francisco	16.0
White, Reggie, Philadelphia	14.0
Greene, Kevin, L.A. Rams	13.0
Dent, Richard, Chicago	12.0
Doleman, Chris, Minnesota	11.0
Swilling, Pat, New Orleans	11.0
Taylor, Lawrence, N.Y. Giants	10.5
Armstrong, Trace, Chicago	10.0
Cofer, Mike, Detroit	10.0
Harvey, Ken, Phoenix	10.0
Fagan, Kevin, San Francisco	9.5
Nunn, Freddie Joe, Phoenix	9.0
Turnbull, Renaldo, New Orleans	9.0
Thomas, Henry, Minnesota	8.5
Jones, Jimmie, Dallas	7.5
Joyner, Seth, Philadelphia	7.5
Simmons, Clyde, Philadelphia	7.5
Stokes, Fred, Washington	7.5
Stubbs, Danny, Dallas	7.5
Thomas, Broderick, Tampa Bay	7.5
Clarke, Ken, Minnesota	7.0
Harris, Tim, Green Bay	7.0
Brown, Dennis, San Francisco	6.0
Collins, Andre, Washington	6.0
Green, Tim, Atlanta	6.0
Jackson, Rickey, New Orleans	6.0
Noga, Al, Minnesota	6.0
Toibert, Tony, Dallas	6.0
Holt, Pierce, San Francisco	5.5
Mann, Charles, Washington	5.5
Randle, Ervin, Tampa Bay	5.5
Wilks, Jim, New Orleans	5.5
Marshall, Wilber, Washington	5.0
Piel, Mike, L.A. Rams	5.0
Tuggle, Jessie, Atlanta	5.0

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1990 AFC STATISTICAL LEADERS

SCORING

KICKERS					
Player, Team	XP Made	XP Att.	FG Made	FG Att.	Tot. Pts.
Lowery, Nick, Kansas City	37	38	34	37	139
Norwood, Scott, Buffalo	50	52	20	29	110
Treadwell, David, Denver	34	36	25	34	109
Johnson, Norm, Seattle	33	34	23	32	102
Leahy, Pat, N.Y. Jets	32	32	23	26	101
Stoyanovich, Pete, Miami	37	37	21	25	100
Anderson, Gary, Pit.	32	32	20	25	92
Breech, Jim, Cincinnati	41	44	17	21	92
Jaeger, Jeff, L.A. Raiders	40	42	15	20	85
Carney, John, San Diego	27	28	19	21	84
Biasucci, Dean, Ind.	32	33	17	24	83
Garcia, Teddy, Houston	26	28	14	20	68
Stavrovsky, Jason, N.E.	19	19	16	22	67
Kauric, Jerry, Cleveland	24	27	14	20	66
Zendejas, Tony, Houston	20	21	7	12	41

NON-KICKERS					
Player, Team	Total TD	Rush TD	Pass TD	Misc. TD	Tot. Pts.
Fenner, D., Sea. (RB)	15	14	1	0	90
Allen, Marcus, Rai. (RB)	13	12	1	0	78
Thomas, T., Buf. (RB)	13	11	2	0	78
White, L., Hou. (RB)	12	8	4	0	72
Hoge, Merrill, Pit. (FB)	10	7	3	0	60
Brooks, James, Cin. (RB)	9	5	4	0	54
Brown, Eddie, Cin. (WR)	9	0	9	0	54
Givins, Ernest, Hou. (WR)	9	0	9	0	54
Smith, Sammie, Mia. (RB)	9	8	1	0	54
Butts, Marion, S.D. (RB)	8	8	0	0	48
Jeffries, H., Hou. (WR)	8	0	8	0	48
Reed, Andre, Buf. (WR)	8	0	8	0	48
Green, Eric, Pit. (TE)	7	0	7	0	42
Humphrey, B., Den. (RB)	7	7	0	0	42
Mack, Kevin, Cle. (FB)	7	5	2	0	42
Miller, A., S.D. (WR)	7	0	7	0	42
Okoye, C., K.C. (RB)	7	7	0	0	42
Baxter, Brad, NYJ (RB)	6	6	0	0	36
Bentley, Albert, Ind. (RB)	6	4	2	0	36
Hester, Jessie, Ind. (WR)	6	0	6	0	36
Jones, Tony, Hou. (WR)	6	0	6	0	36
McNeil, F., NYJ (RB)	6	6	0	0	36
Moore, Rob, NYJ (WR)	6	0	6	0	36
Paige, Tony, Mia. (FB)	6	2	4	0	36
Toon, Al, NYJ (WR)	6	0	6	0	36
Woods, Ickey, Cin. (FB)	6	6	0	0	36
Brooks, Bill, Ind. (WR)	5	0	5	0	30
Cook, Marv, N.E. (TE)	5	0	5	0	30
Davis, Kenneth, Buf. (RB)	5	4	1	0	30
Duper, Mark, Mia. (WR)	5	0	5	0	30
Fernandez, M., Rai. (WR)	5	0	5	0	30
Hill, Drew, Hou. (WR)	5	0	5	0	30
Holman, R., Cin. (TE)	5	0	5	0	30
Jackson, Bo, Rai. (RB)	5	5	0	0	30
Jackson, M., Den. (WR)	5	1	4	0	30
Jones, Bill, K.C. (RB)	5	0	5	0	30
McKeller, Keith, Buf. (TE)	5	0	5	0	30
Morgan, S., Ind. (WR)	5	0	5	0	30
Paige, S., K.C. (WR)	5	0	5	0	30
Smith, Steve, Rai. (RB)	5	2	3	0	30
Bernstine, Rod, S.D. (RB)	4	4	0	0	24
Bratton, Mel, Den. (RB)	4	3	1	0	24
Chadwick, J., Sea. (WR)	4	0	4	0	24
Dickerson, Eric, Ind. (RB)	4	4	0	0	24
Fryar, Irving, N.E. (WR)	4	0	4	0	24
Kane, Tommy, Sea. (WR)	4	0	4	0	24
Lofton, James, Buf. (WR)	4	0	4	0	24
Metcalfe, Eric, Cle. (RB)	4	1	1	2	24
Slaughter, W., Cle. (WR)	4	0	4	0	24
Thomas, R., K.C. (WR)	4	0	4	0	24
Williams, W., Pit. (RB)	4	3	1	0	24
Word, Barry, K.C. (RB)	4	4	0	0	24
Young, Mike, Den. (WR)	4	0	4	0	24
Birden, J.J., K.C. (WR)	3	0	3	0	18
Blades, Brian, Sea. (WR)	3	0	3	0	18
Brown, Tim, Rai. (WR)	3	0	3	0	18
Clayton, Mark, Mia. (WR)	3	0	3	0	18
Elway, John, Den. (QB)	3	3	0	0	18
Gault, Willie, Rai. (WR)	3	0	3	0	18
Harris, L., Hou. (WR)	3	0	3	0	18
Hoard, Leroy, Cle. (RB)	3	3	0	0	18
Horton, Ethan, Rai. (TE)	3	0	3	0	18
Johnson, V., Den. (WR)	3	0	3	0	18
Lewis, Nate, S.D. (WR)	3	1	1	1	18
Lipps, Louis, Pit. (WR)	3	0	3	0	18
McEwen, C., S.D. (H-B)	3	0	3	0	18
Mueller, Jamie, Buf. (FB)	3	2	1	0	18

INTERCEPTIONS

Player, Team	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Johnson, R., Houston	8	100	12.5	35	1
Byrd, Gill, San Diego	7	63	9.0	24	0
Ross, Kevin, K.C.	5	97	19.4	40	0
McMillan, Erik, NYJ	5	92	18.4	25	0
Oliver, Louis, Miami	5	87	17.4	35	0
Williams, Jarvis, Mia.	5	82	16.4	142	1
Woodson, Rod, Pit.	5	67	13.4	34	0
Lippett, Ronnie, N.E.	4	94	23.5	73	0
Kinard, Terry, Hou.	4	75	18.8	47	0
Griffin, Larry, Pit.	4	75	18.8	36	0
Hurst, Maurice, N.E.	4	61	15.3	36	0
Dishman, Cris, Hou.	4	50	12.5	42	0
McKyer, Tim, Miami	4	40	10.0	21	0
Bussey, Barney, Cin.	4	37	9.3	18	0
Fulcher, David, Cin.	4	20	5.0	18	0
Marion, Fred, N.E.	4	17	4.3	16	0
Woodruff, D., Pit.	3	110	36.7	59	0
Robinson, E., Seattle	3	89	29.7	39	0
Harper, Dwayne, Sea.	3	69	23.0	47	0
Prior, Mike, Ind.	3	66	22.0	36	0
Wright, Felix, Cle.	3	56	18.7	36	0
Clifton, Kyle, N.Y. Jets	3	49	16.3	39	0
Anderson, Eddie, Rai.	3	49	16.3	31	0
Cherry, Deron, K.C.	3	40	13.3	21	0
Billups, Lewis, Cin.	3	39	13.0	29	0
Petry, Stan, K.C.	3	33	11.0	133	1
Donaldson, Jeff, K.C.	3	28	9.3	14	0
Washington, B., NYJ	3	22	7.3	13	0
McDaniel, Terry, Rai.	3	20	6.7	15	0
Harden, Mike, Raiders	3	19	6.3	15	0
Jackson, Kirby, Buf.	3	16	5.3	14	0
Everett, Thomas, Pit.	3	2	0.7	2	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

Player, Team	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Clark, Kevin, Denver	20	505	25.3	75	0
Elder, Donnie, S.D.	24	571	23.8	90	0
Woodson, Rod, Pit.	135	764	21.8	49	0
Warren, Chris, Seattle	23	478	20.8	71	0
Martin, Sammy, N.E.	25	515	20.6	38	0
Holland, Jamie, Rai.	32	655	20.5	87	0
McNeil, Gerald, Hou.	27	551	20.4	64	0
Metcalfe, Eric, Cle.	52	1052	20.2	101	2
Jennings, S., Cin.	29	584	20.1	33	0
Smith, Don, Buffalo	32	643	20.1	38	0
Brown, Ron, Raiders	30	575	19.2	34	0
Logan, Marc, Miami	20	367	18.4	35	0
Mathis, Terance, NYJ	43	787	18.3	35	0

PUNT RETURNS

Player, Team	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Verdin, Clarence, Ind.	31	3	396	12.8	36	0
Woodson, Rod, Pit.	38	8	398	10.5	152	1
Warren, Chris, Seattle	28	16	269	9.6	39	0
Brown, Tim, Raiders	34	8	295	8.7	39	0
Price, Mitchell, Cin.	29	14	251	8.7	166	1
Clark, Kevin, Denver	21	1	159	7.6	32	0
Worthen, Naz, K.C.	25	3	180	7.2	37	0
McNeil, Gerald, Hou.	30	20	172	5.7	26	0
Martin, Tony, Miami	26	9	140	5.4	35	0
Fryar, Irving, N.E.	28	10	133	4.8	17	0

PASSING

Player, Team	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long	Int.	Pct.	Yds.	Rating
Kelly, Jim, Buffalo	346	219	63.3	2829	8.18	24	69	71	9	2.6	101.2
Moon, Warren, Houston	584	362	62.0	4689	8.03	33	5.7	187	13	2.2	96.8
DeBerg, Steve, Kansas City	444	258	58.1	3444	7.76	23	5.2	190	4	0.9	96.3
Schroeder, Jay, L.A. Raiders	334	182	54.5	2849	8.53	19	5.7	168	9	2.7	90.8
Marino, Dan, Miami	531	306	57.6	3563	6.71	21	4.0	169	11	2.1	82.6
Brister, Bubby, Pittsburgh	387	223	57.6	2725	7.04	20	5.2	90	14	3.6	81.6
Elway, John, Denver	502	294	58.6	3526	7.02	15	3.0	66	14	2.8	78.5
O'Brien, Ken, N.Y. Jets	411	226	55.0	2855	6.95	13	3.2	169	10	2.4	77.3
Esiason, Boomer, Cincinnati	402	224	55.7	3031	7.54	24	6.0	53	22	5.5	77.0
George, Jeff, Indianapolis	334	181	54.2	2152	6.44	16	4.8	75	13	3.9	73.8
Krieg, Dave, Seattle	448	265	59.2	3194	7.13	15	3.3	163	20	4.5	73.6
Tolliver, Billy Joe, San Diego	410	216	52.7	2574	6.28	16	3.9	145	16	3.9	68.9
Kosar, Bernie, Cleveland	423	230	54.4	2562	6.06	10	2.4	50	15	3.5	65.7
Wilson, Marc, New England	265	139	52.5	1625	6.13	6	2.3	136	11	4.2	61.6

PUNTING

Player, Team	Net Punts	Yards	Long	Avg.	Total Punts	TB	Bk.	Opp. Ret.	Ret. Yds.	In 20	Net Avg.
Horan, Mike, Denver	58	2575	67	44.4	59	6	1	22	159	14	38.9
Stark, Rohn, Indianapolis	71	3084	61	43.4	72	3	1	42	334	24	37.4
Johnson, Lee, Cincinnati	64	2705	70	42.3	64	8	0	36	352	12	34.3
Hansen, Brian, New England	90	3752	69	41.7	92	8	2	50	503	18	33.6
Roby, Reggie, Miami	72	3022	62	42.0	72	3	0	40	397	20	35.6
Donnelly, Rick, Seattle	67	2722	54	40.6	67	8	0	29	254	18	34.4
Prokop, Joe, N.Y. Jets	59	2363	58	40.1	59	3	0	33	257	18	34.7
Kidd, John, San Diego	61	2442	59	40.0	62	2	1	28	131	14	36.6
Tuten, Rick, Buffalo	53	2107	55	39.8	53	4	0	26	214	12	34.2
Wagner, Bryan, Cleveland	74	2879	65	38.9	78	2	4	41	425	13	30.9
Barker, Bryan, Kansas City	64	2479	56	38.7	64	1	0	38	324	16	33.4
Gossett, Jeff, L.A. Raiders	60	2315	57	38.6	62	4	2	24	153	19	33.6
Stryzinski, Dan, Pittsburgh	65	2454	51	37.8	66	5	1	16	105	18	34.1

Continued on Page 160

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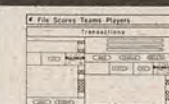
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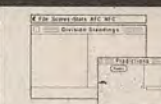
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Humphrey, B., Denver	288	1202	4.2	t37	7
Word, Barry, K.C.	204	1015	5.0	t53	4
Brooks, James, Cin.	195	1004	5.1	t56	5
Fenner, Derrick, Sea.	215	859	4.0	36	14
Smith, Sammie, Miami	226	831	3.7	33	8
Stephens, John, N.E.	212	808	3.8	26	2
Okoye, Christian, K.C.	245	805	3.3	32	7
Hoge, Merrill, Pit.	203	772	3.8	t41	7
Williams, John L., Sea.	187	714	3.8	25	3
Mack, Kevin, Cle.	158	702	4.4	26	5
White, Lorenzo, Hou.	168	702	4.2	22	8
Jackson, Bo, Raiders	125	698	5.6	88	5
Allen, Marcus, Raiders	179	682	3.8	28	12
Dickerson, Eric, Ind.	166	677	4.1	43	4
Thomas, Blair, NYJ	123	620	5.0	41	1
Bernstine, Rod, S.D.	124	589	4.8	t40	4
Bentley, Albert, Ind.	137	556	4.1	t26	4
Baxter, Brad, NYJ	124	539	4.3	t28	6
McNeil, Freeman, NYJ	99	458	4.6	29	6
Worley, Tim, Pit.	109	418	3.8	38	0
Williams, Warren, Pit.	68	389	5.7	t70	3
Hector, Johnny, NYJ	91	377	4.1	22	2
Harmon, Ronnie, S.D.	66	363	5.5	41	0
Green, Harold, Cin.	83	353	4.3	39	1
Smith, Steve, Raiders	81	327	4.0	17	2
Logan, Marc, Miami	79	317	4.0	17	2
Davis, Kenneth, Buf.	64	302	4.7	47	4
Pinkett, Allen, Hou.	66	268	4.1	19	0
Woods, Ickey, Cin.	64	268	4.2	32	6
Elway, John, Denver	50	258	5.2	21	3
Metcalf, Eric, Cle.	80	248	3.1	17	1
Allen, Marvin, N.E.	63	237	3.8	29	1
Taylor, Craig, Cin.	51	216	4.2	24	2
Moon, Warren, Hou.	55	215	3.9	17	2
Mueller, Jamie, Buf.	59	207	3.5	20	2
Foster, Barry, Pit.	36	203	5.6	38	1
Bell, Greg, Raiders	47	164	3.5	21	1

RECEIVING

Player, Team	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Jeffries, H., Houston	74	1048	14.2	t87	8
Hill, Drew, Houston	74	1019	13.8	57	5
Williams, John L., Sea.	73	699	9.6	60	0
Givins, Ernest, Hou.	72	979	13.6	t80	9
Reed, Andre, Buffalo	71	945	13.3	t56	8
Bentley, Albert, Ind.	71	664	9.4	73	2
Duncan, Curtis, Hou.	66	785	11.9	t37	1
Paige, Stephone, K.C.	65	1021	15.7	t86	5
Miller, Anthony, S.D.	63	933	14.8	t31	7
Brooks, Bill, Ind.	62	823	13.3	75	5
Slaughter, W., Cle.	59	847	14.4	50	4
Jackson, Mark, Den.	57	926	16.2	66	4
Toon, Al, N.Y. Jets	57	757	13.3	t46	6
Metcalf, Eric, Cle.	57	452	7.9	35	1
Hester, Jessie, Ind.	54	924	17.1	t64	6
Fryar, Irving, N.E.	54	856	15.9	56	4
Johnson, Vance, Den.	54	747	13.8	49	3
Fernandez, M., Rai.	52	839	16.1	t66	5
Duper, Mark, Miami	52	810	15.6	t69	5
Kane, Tommy, Seattle	52	776	14.9	t63	4

Player, Team	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Cook, Marv, N.E.	51	455	8.9	t35	5
Gault, Willie, Raiders	50	985	19.7	t68	3
Lipps, Louis, Pit.	50	682	13.6	37	3
Thomas, T., Buffalo	49	532	10.9	63	2
Blades, Brian, Seattle	49	525	10.7	24	3
Harmon, Ronnie, S.D.	46	511	11.1	t36	2

SACKS

Player, Team	No.
Thomas, Derrick, Kansas City	20.0
Smith, Bruce, Buffalo	19.0
O'Neal, Leslie, San Diego	13.5
Byrd, Dennis, N.Y. Jets	13.0
Green, Jacob, Seattle	12.5
Jones, Sean, Houston	12.5
Townsend, Greg, L.A. Raiders	12.5
Cross, Jeff, Miami	11.5
Perry, Michael Dean, Cleveland	11.5
Fletcher, Simon, Denver	11.0
Davis, Scott, L.A. Raiders	10.0
Grossman, Burt, San Diego	10.0

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

att.—attempts
 avg.—average
 C—center
 CB—cornerback
 comp.—completions
 DB—defensive back
 DE—defensive end
 DL—defensive lineman
 DT—defensive tackle
 D1—draft pick, first round
 E—end
 FA—free-agent acquisition
 FB—fullback
 FGs—field goals
 FS—free safety
 G—guard
 GP—games played
 GS—games started
 HB—halfback
 H-B—H-back
 ILB—inside linebacker
 IR—injured reserve
 Int.—interceptions
 K—place-kicker
 KR—kick returner
 LB—linebacker
 LCB—left cornerback
 LE—left end
 LG—left guard
 LILB—left inside linebacker
 LOLB—left outside linebacker
 LT—left tackle
 MG—middle guard
 MLB—middle linebacker
 NG—noseguard
 NT—nose tackle
 OL—offensive lineman
 OLB—outside linebacker
 OT—offensive tackle
 P—punter
 PATs—points after touchdown
 PlanB—Plan B free-agent acquisition
 PR—punt returner
 pts.—points
 QB—quarterback
 R—rookie
 RB—running back
 RCB—right cornerback
 RE—right end
 RG—right guard
 RILB—right inside linebacker
 ROLB—right outside linebacker
 RT—right tackle
 S—safety
 SS—strong safety
 St.—State
 SupD1—supplemental draft pick, first round
 T—tackle
 TDs—touchdowns
 TE—tight end
 Tr.—trade acquisition
 W—waivers acquisition
 WR—wide receiver
 yds.—yards

1990 NFL FINAL STANDINGS

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

EASTERN DIVISION

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.
*N.Y. Giants	13	3	0	.813	335	211
†Philadelphia	10	6	0	.625	396	299
†Washington	10	6	0	.625	381	301
Dallas	7	9	0	.438	244	308
Phoenix	5	11	0	.313	268	396

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.
*Chicago	11	5	0	.688	348	280
Tampa Bay	6	10	0	.375	264	367
Detroit	6	10	0	.375	373	413
Green Bay	6	10	0	.375	271	347
Minnesota	6	10	0	.375	351	326

WESTERN DIVISION

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.
*San Francisco	14	2	0	.875	353	239
†New Orleans	8	8	0	.500	274	275
L.A. Rams	5	11	0	.313	345	412
Atlanta	5	11	0	.313	348	365

*Division champion. †Wild-card team.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

EASTERN DIVISION

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.
*Buffalo	13	3	0	.813	428	263
†Miami	12	4	0	.750	336	242
Indianapolis	7	9	0	.438	281	353
N.Y. Jets	6	10	0	.375	295	345
New England	1	15	0	.063	181	446

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.
*Cincinnati	9	7	0	.563	360	352
†Houston	9	7	0	.563	405	307
Pittsburgh	9	7	0	.563	292	240
Cleveland	3	13	0	.188	228	462

WESTERN DIVISION

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.
*L.A. Raiders	12	4	0	.750	337	268
†Kansas City	11	5	0	.688	369	257
Seattle	9	7	0	.563	306	286
San Diego	6	10	0	.375	315	281
Denver	5	11	0	.313	331	374

*Division champion. †Wild-card team.

PLAYOFFS

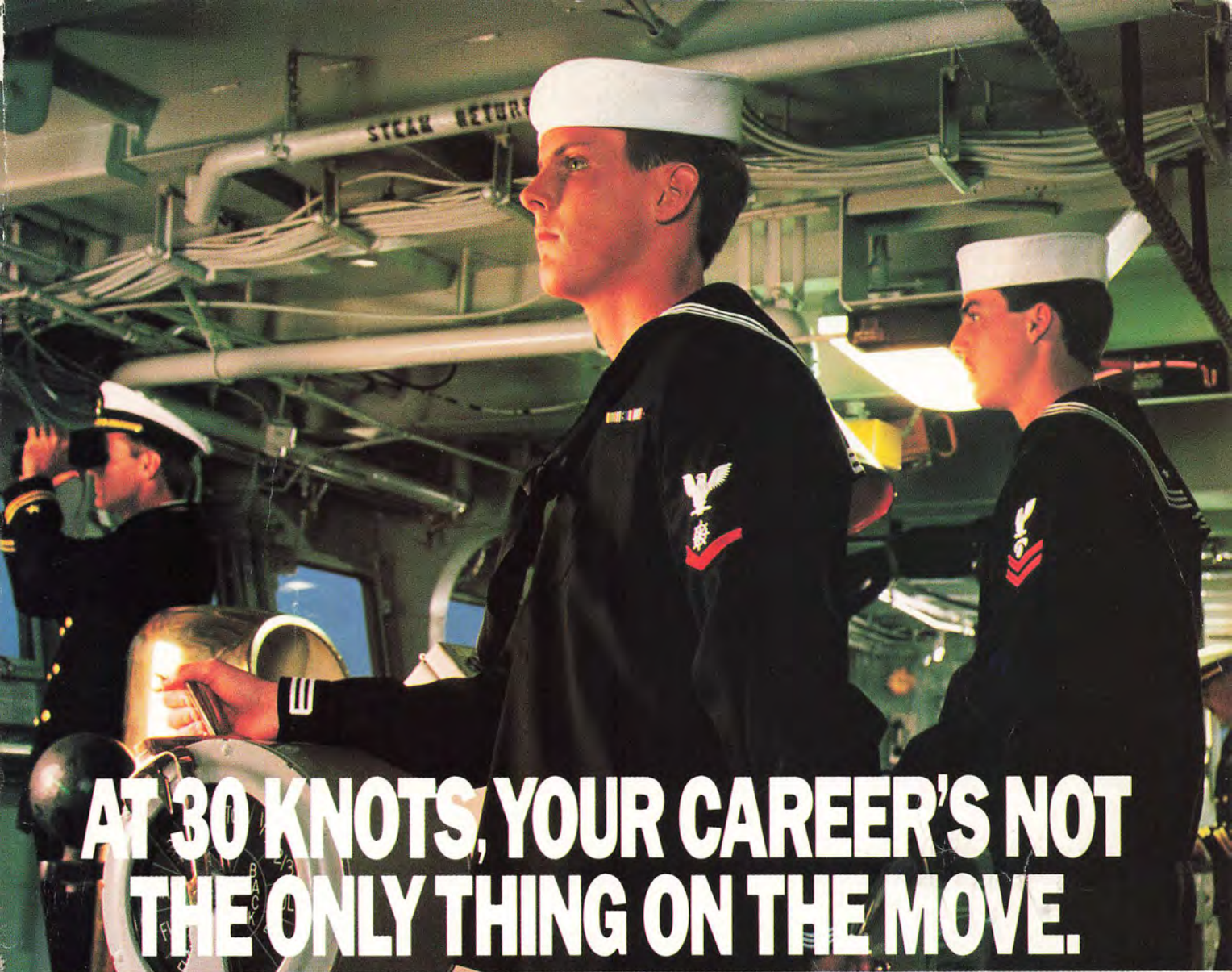
AFC wild card: Miami 17, Kansas City 16
 Cincinnati 41, Houston 14
 AFC semifinals: Buffalo 44, Miami 34
 L.A. Raiders 20, Cincinnati 10
 AFC championship: Buffalo 51, L.A. Raiders 3
 NFC wild card: Washington 20, Philadelphia 6
 Chicago 16, New Orleans 6
 NFC semifinals: San Francisco 28, Washington 10
 N.Y. Giants 31, Chicago 3
 NFC championship: N.Y. Giants 15, San Francisco 13
 Super Bowl: N.Y. Giants 20, Buffalo 19

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